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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Hinckley's outings: Prosecutors and defense lawyers agree John Hinckley Jr.'s mental health has improved but they differed on whether he's well enough to safely take longer, unsupervised trips away from the Washington psychiatric hospital he's called home since shooting President Reagan in 1981.

Hinckley lawyer Barry W. Levine said his client's mental illness has been in remission for more than a decade. He accused the government of holding Hinckley to an unreasonable standard.

Government lawyer Robert Chapman said Hinckley, 49, has been deceptive about his relationship with a former girlfriend and warned a federal judge not to be lulled into a false sense of security just because Hinckley has been well-behaved during prior outings.

Vermont shooting appeal: Lawyers for Robert Woodward's family are appealing a federal judge's ruling that they don't have a case against the town of Brattleboro, Vt., and the two police officers who fatally shot Woodward in 2001.

The civil case, filed on the behalf of Woodward's father, mother and sister in U.S. District Court in Brattleboro, alleges that Brattleboro police officers Marshall Holbrook and Terrance Parker and the town are liable for the shooting death of Woodward on Dec. 2, 2001, in a town church.

Witnesses said Woodward had threatened suicide with a knife, but hadn't at any point menaced anyone before being shot seven times in his arms, stomach and back.

Gotti racketeering trial: Mafia don John Gotti's older brother ordered a hit on Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano as payback for testifying against the late mob boss, a New York prosecutor told a jury.

Gravano was arrested on drug charges before the alleged plot could be carried out. The defense argued Peter Gotti, a former sanitation worker, was a victim of guilt-by-association with his notorious brother, the Gambino crime family kingpin who died in prison in 2002.

Serial killer's murder trial: Coral Eugene Watts is a "stalking predator" who should be convicted in the slaying of a Michigan woman more than a quarter-century ago, a prosecutor said during closing arguments Tuesday in the only murder trial the confessed serial killer has faced.

Watts confessed in 1982 to 13 slayings but received immunity in 12 those killings as



Russian school attack survivors: Children who survived September's deadly siege of their school in Beslan, Russia, listen to a priest speak Tuesday on Christian history in the Orthodox chapel within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The church in Jerusalem's Old City is built over the tomb where Jesus is said to have been buried. Eighteen former hostages, some of whose family members are among the 330 people who died in the Beslan school, are visiting Israel for three weeks, hosted by the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon, which helped pay the cost of their visit.

part of a deal with Texas prosecutors.

In an attempt to keep him behind bars, Michigan authorities have charged Watts with murder in the 1979 stabbing death of Dutchman in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale. If convicted, Watts, 51, faces a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

World

Thatcher son's extradition: Equatorial Guinea has decided to seek the extradition of Mark Thatcher, son of the former British prime minister, for trial in an alleged coup plot in the isolated, oil-rich central African nation, a legal official close to the government said Tuesday.

Thatcher, a 51-year-old businessman, is now under arrest in South Africa in connection with the alleged plot. Equatorial Guinea accuses Thatcher and other financiers, of conspiring for the mercenary overthrow of 25-year president Teodoro Obiang.

Sept. 11 trial in Germany: A man accused of supporting the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks was close friends with lead hijacker Mohamed Atta and once said something big was being planned and that "the Jews will

burn," a witness testified Tuesday.

Holger L., who roomed with suspect Moumin el Motassadeq while both were students at Hamburg's Technical University, said the Moroccan often had visits from Atta and Ramzi Binalshibh, who is in secret U.S. custody, is thought to be the Hamburg al-Qaida cell's key contact with Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

Business

Australian defamation settlement: In a low-key end to a ground-breaking case that extended the reach of Australia's libel laws to the world, Dow Jones & Co. has settled a defamation lawsuit launched against it by an Australian mining magnate.

The case started after mining boss Joe Gutnick claimed that an October 2000 Barron's magazine article had portrayed him as a schemer given to stock scams, money laundering and fraud.

In a landmark ruling in December 2002, the High Court of Australia unanimously ruled that the case could be heard in Gutnick's home state of Victoria because people there could have read the article online.

Photo and stories from wire services

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Yokota tests new hazardous waste disposal program

Officials want to keep aerosol cans and propane bottles separate from other trash

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Base environmental officials are testing a new household hazardous waste program in a bid to separate aerosol cans and propane bottles from other trash.

Officials want to weigh the effort's economic feasibility and environmental benefits, said Donna Collier, 374th Civil Engineering Squadron environmental flight chief. If successful, permanent measures may be established for disposing of household hazardous waste.

"We do not have a central collection point for household hazardous waste," Collier said. "Different items must be taken to different locations for disposal. In instance, fluorescent bulbs and U.S.-manufactured paint and cleaning supplies go to Self-Help, car batteries go to the AAFES garage, and antifreeze and car oils go to the Auto Skills Center. But we have no collection points at all for aerosol cans or small propane tanks."

"Therefore, we decided to start a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of collecting these items."

From now through Dec. 11, residents are being asked to place empty cans of shaving cream, furniture polish, bug spray and other aerosol products in marked containers.

On the base's west side, containers have been set up at apartment towers and housing unit garbage and recycling collection areas. All other community members may discard these items at the Pollution Prevention

Center in Building 995 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each weekday.

"The primary objective is to collect as many aerosol cans and small propane tanks as possible," Collier said. "We hope to use the collection statistics and customer-satisfaction surveys — which we'll pass out at the completion of the pilot program — to determine if this program is effective and should be expanded."

Yuki Inoue, the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron's environmental quality and pollution prevention manager, thought of the idea to enhance the base's mandatory recycling program and ensure garbage contractors' safety, she added.

Problems off-base with garbage-compactor trucks also were factors in the project's creation, Collier said.

"There have been a few accidents off base with aerosol cans exploding inside the garbage trucks when the trash is compacted," she said. "Also, the aerosol cans have been exploding inside the incinerator during burning, damaging the inside walls of the incinerator."

By isolating aerosol cans and propane bottles, she said, Yokota environmental officials hope to improve workers' safety and ultimately reduce incinerator operation costs.

Call the base environmental office at DSN 226-9983 for more information about the trial program.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mil

Misawa card contest

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Misawa Air Base is gearing up for its annual Christmas card competition in which units and private organizations display their plywood cards in Risner Circle and vie for bragging rights.

To reserve a spot, participants must sign up at the Self-Help Center. The Self-Help shop will issue one sheet of plywood, two quart of white paint and two paint brushes, according to base officials. Each location also will re-

ceive a spotlight and one 120-volt power outlet.

Displays can't be bigger than 8 feet wide or encroach on the curb; no additional commercial power is allowed.

Cards must be completed and installed by Dec. 1. Judging takes place Dec. 2 in conjunction with the tree lighting ceremony.

Cards are to be removed between Jan. 3 and 7. Last year's champion was 35th Services Squadron.

Call DSN 226-9983 for more information.

From staff reports

Acceptable behavior made clear for minors on Sasebo

New document spells out allowable age to drink, buy tobacco and stay home alone if parents deploy

BY GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Staying home alone at age 15 when parents are deployed and buying tobacco in the Navy exchange at age 18: Both are possible under instructions Sasebo officials created recently to explain acceptable behavior for minors of status-of-forces-agreement personnel.

Age 20 remains the minimum legal age for buying and using alcoholic beverages on base and off.

Before the new instruction took effect Oct. 14, said Sasebo's Staff Judge Advocate Lt. Maribel Mercado, 20 was also the minimum age for buying tobacco at the Navy exchange.

"Previously, it wasn't allowed for minors 15 and older to stay home alone if parents or sponsors had to leave on temporary duty or deployments," Mercado explained.

The new rules weren't prompted by any particular misbehavior by Sasebo juveniles, she said Tuesday afternoon. "The previous instructions left a lot of the discretion of the parents of the minors."

"Also, some parents might not be as responsible as others because they haven't been provided clear guidelines. This is a large part of what we're trying to remedy."

Few of the rules are new, but until now they haven't been available in a concise, updated and heavily distributed document, Mercado said.

Base officials have launched efforts, which continue this week, to provide the widest possible distribution of "Conduct of Family Members," the base attorney said.

Mercado said for 15-year-olds to stay home alone if parents or sponsors had to leave on temporary duty or deployments, the adults must "obtain command approval, provide power-of-attorney to an adult nearby willing to supervise, and provide a source for money and other needs."

"Also, because command approval is required, the Security Department will know which minors are alone when parents deploy," he said on a temporary duty, Mercado added.

Until now, the NEX could sell tobacco products only to those 20 and older. The age restriction is lowered to 18 in the instruction.

"But they need to remember that Japanese law states you must be 20 to use or buy tobacco. That law applies to everyone, no matter where they bought the items," Mercado said.

Rules to live by

New rules and regulations governing the activities of minors were introduced recently at Sasebo Naval Base. Violations, if deemed drastic enough, could warrant a one-way ticket home to the U.S.

	Never	Allowed	Age: 0-5	6-9	10-11	12-14	>15
Walking to school/school bus stop unattended							
Unattended in a vehicle			1	2	3	3	
Unattended in quarters (adults in Sasebo area)					4		
Unattended in quarters (adults out of Sasebo area)						5	
Playing outside while unattended			6	7	7	8	
Baby-sitting (as a certified baby sitter)							
Unattended in Nimitz Park			9	10	7	8	

1. Less than five minutes, keys removed
2. Less than 20 minutes, keys removed
3. Yes, with keys removed
4. Yes, for not more than four hours
5. Yes, based on parental discretion and command approval
6. Yes, for not more than one hour and responsible adult is within sight or hearing distance
7. Yes, until 8 p.m., curfew
8. Yes, until relevant curfew
9. Yes, if responsible adult is in Nimitz Park participating in an organized activity and within sight or hearing of the minor
10. Yes, if responsible adult is in Nimitz Park participating in an organized activity

SOURCE: Sasebo Naval Base, Staff Judge Advocate's office

Houston Ruck/Stars and Stripes

"In addition, the change has no impact on the age requirement to purchase alcoholic beverages; on base and in town the age limit is still 20."

The new instructions state that breaking rules could result in a minor — or even an entire family — being sent back to the United States.

Such serious offenses could include dealing drugs, repeated underage drinking, violent incidents, stealing and joining or organizing gangs and secret societies.

The Joint Federal Travel Regulations include administrative procedures for the early return of family members.

Consequences also could include removing from Japan SOFA-sponsored civilians who have "become involved in incidents which are embarrassing to the United States government or are prejudicial to good order, morale and discipline within the Sasebo community," states the Conduct of Family Members regulations.

Minors caught unsupervised on playgrounds, playing music loud enough to disturb neighbors at least 50 feet away or entering pro-

hibited industrial areas without an escort are subject to lesser punishments.

"In cases where early return is not warranted, minors will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Civilian Administrative Forum as outlined ... and must comply with all awarded administrative actions. Failure to comply will result in removal," the instruction states.

Tougher consequences still could result if prohibited behavior resumes, Mercado said, adding that the instructions explain a "lowest common denominator" of acceptable behavior from minors in Sasebo.

"The new instruction, as a response to general confusion, just makes things much clearer for everyone involved. And that includes the minors, their parents and even security personnel. That's why we're sending copies to all department heads and beginning to get the word out through all possible avenues," the SJA said.

Call the SJA office at DSN 252-2103 or 252-3385 for more information about the new instruction.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylberg@pstripes.osd.mil

DOD to tell bases not to sponsor Boy Scouts

BY MIKE ROBINSON
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Pentagon has agreed to warn military bases worldwide not to directly sponsor Boy Scout troops, partially resolving claims that the government has engaged in religious discrimination by supporting a group that requires members to believe in God.

The settlement announced Monday is part of a series of legal challenges in recent years over how closely the government should be aligned with the Boy Scouts of America, an organization that boasts more than 3.2 million members.

Civil liberties advocates have set their sights on the organization's policies because the group bans openly gay scout leaders and compels members to swear an oath of duty to God. The American Civil Liberties Union believes that direct government sponsorship of such a program amounts to discrimination.

"If our Constitution's promise of religious liberty is to be a reality, the government should not be administering religious oaths or discriminating based on religious beliefs," said ACLU attorney Adam Schwartz.

The Pentagon said it has long had a rule against sponsorship of non-federal organizations and denied the rule had been violated.

But it agreed to send a message to posts worldwide warning them not to sponsor Boy Scout troops or other such groups.

The rule does not prevent service members from leading Scout troops unofficially on their own time, and Scouts will still be able to hold meetings on areas of military bases where civilian organizations are allowed to hold events.

The settlement does not resolve other ACLU claims involving government spending that benefits the Boy Scouts, such as money used to prepare a Virginia military base for the Boy Scout Jamboree and grants used by state and local governments to benefit the Boy Scouts, Schwartz said.

He said the Pentagon spends \$2 million every year to prepare the Virginia base for the jamboree, held once every four years. He said the Defense Department also makes annual allocations of \$100,000 to support Boy Scout units on military bases overseas and \$100,000 to improve Boy Scout properties, such as summer camps.

Attorney Marcia Berman, who represented the Defense Department, declined to comment on the settlement Monday. But Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller said the message that will be sent to bases represents "a clarification of an existing rule that DOD personnel cannot be involved in an official capacity."

The original ACLU lawsuit named as defendants the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Chicago Board of Education. The schools settled, agreeing not to engage in official sponsorship of scouting activities.



Drew Gates, 12, of East Hampton, Conn., and a member of Boy Scouts Troop 8, salutes during the Pledge of Allegiance as part of a Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday. The Department of Defense said Monday it has agreed to warn military bases worldwide not to support Boy Scout troops as part of a settlement with the American Civil Liberties Union.

'Halo 2' re-enforcements

If your trigger finger is itching for some aliens, don't despair if you didn't land a copy of "Halo 2" last week. Re-enforcements have arrived and more are on the way.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service sold all 250,000 of its copies of the space warner's Xbox, exchange spokesman Judd Anstey said Monday. However, 6,000 more copies were due in stores worldwide Monday and another 10,000 are scheduled to arrive next Monday, he said.

The AFES sales were just a small part of last week's "Halo 2" invasion. The highly anticipated game saw a phenomenal \$125 million in sales its first 24 hours of availability, The Associated Press reported.

The original "Halo" was a very popular first-person shooter, creating a ready market for the follow-up version.

Staff reports

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Troops launch offensive to retake Mosul

BY KATARINA KRATOVAC
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi troops stormed insurgent-held police stations and neighborhoods Tuesday, launching an offensive to retake parts of Mosul, a northern Iraqi city where gunmen staged a mass uprising last

week in support of fighters in Fallujah.

Troops secured several police stations by the mid-afternoon, meeting "very little resistance," the U.S. military said. Mosul residents claimed that insurgents blew up three stations they were holding before abandoning them

ahead of the U.S. assault. The U.S. military denied that any police stations were destroyed.

However, Nineveh Provincial Deputy Gov. Khisrou Gouran said that militants blew up the Zuhair police station Tuesday.

"They attacked it three days ago and it was vacated from po-

lice. Today, the armed men came back and blew it up. The aim is that the policemen and the National Guard don't go back to it," he said.

U.S. warplanes and helicopters hovered over Mosul — Iraq's third largest city, with about 1 million residents — as loud explosions and gunfire were heard. About 1,200 U.S. soldiers were taking part in the offensive to recapture about a dozen police stations abandoned by Iraqi forces in the uprising.

Mortars struck two areas near the main government building in the city center, killing three civilians and injuring 25 others, hospital officials said. A car bomb exploded near a U.S. convoy in a Sunni Arab neighborhood of western Mosul, wounding one U.S. soldier, the military said.

The uprising swept across Mosul — 225 miles north of Baghdad — amid a wave of violence across north and central Iraq following the U.S.-led attack on Fallujah, the insurgents' strongest bastion, west of Baghdad. The week-old Fallujah offensive has killed at least 38 American troops and six Iraqi soldiers.

American officials estimate that 1,200 insurgents have been killed in the Fallujah fighting.

But many insurgents are thought to have slipped out of Fallujah ahead of the U.S. onslaught.

In a speech found Monday on the Internet, a speaker said to be Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the country's most feared terror leader, called on his followers to "show" the Americans "with rockets and mortars" because U.S. forces were spread too thin as they seek to "finish off Islam in Fallujah."

The U.S.-Iraqi assault in Mosul aimed to push back the uprising last week by gunmen who stormed police stations, bridges and political offices. The city's police force was overwhelmed and, in many places,

failed to even put up a fight. Mosul Police Chief Brig. Gen. Mohammed Kheiri Barhawi was fired amid criticism that some police cooperated with insurgents.

Reinforcements of about 300 Iraqi National Guards pulled from garrisons along Iran and Syria and a battalion of a special police task force from Baghdad were sent to Mosul. The U.S. military recalled one infantry battalion that had been fighting in Fallujah to return to Mosul.

On Tuesday, Mosul's five bridges were closed to start the operation, and American forces began securing police stations in the western part of the city, said U.S. Capt. Angela Bowman, with Task Force Olympia.

"We are in the process of securing all of the police stations and returning the police to these stations," she said.

Residents reported seeing two bullet-riddled bodies on a sidewalk in the Mafraq Doms area of eastern Mosul, one with a police ID card identifying him as Talal al-Jubori. Both were wearing civilian clothes, and one had bandages on his leg.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, U.S. forces arrested Nasseer Ayaef, a high-ranking member of an influential Sunni political party, the Iraqi Islamic Party, in a dawn raid on his home, party official Ayad al-Samarrai told The Associated Press.

Al-Samarrai said the arrest was punishment for the party's objections to "Fallujah and to the security policies adopted by the Americans and the Iraqi government."

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's office demanded Ayaef be handed over to Iraqi authorities and promised his family and colleagues that any claims against him would be investigated fairly.

Ayaef is a member of the interim Iraqi National Council, a government oversight body. Last week, the Iraqi Islamic Party withdrew from Allawi's government to protest the Fallujah offensive.

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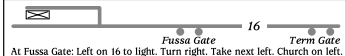
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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

U.S. investigates shooting of wounded Iraqi

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military said Tuesday it is investigating the videotaped fatal shooting of a wounded man by a U.S. Marine in a mosque in Fallujah. Iraqis condemned the act as "cowardice" and "something forbidden in Islam."

Investigators will determine whether the Marine acted in self-defense against what a spokesman described as an "enemy combatant."

The dramatic footage was taken Saturday by pool correspondent Kevin Sites of NBC, whose

report said the man who was killed didn't appear to be armed or threatening in any way, with no weapons visible in the mosque.

The slain man was among a group of men wounded in fighting a day earlier at the mosque and left there. Three others in the group were also shot again Saturday by Marines, Sites said.

The Marine involved in the fatal shooting was withdrawn from the battlefield pending the results of the investigation, the U.S. military said.

"We follow the law of armed conflict and hold ourselves to a high standard of accountability,"

said Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. "The facts of this case will be thoroughly pursued to make an informed decision and to protect the rights of all persons involved."

The Marine statement said the investigators would look at "an allegation of the unlawful use of force in the death of an enemy combatant."

"The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether the Marine acted in self-defense, violated military law or failed to comply with the Law of Armed Conflict," it said.

Florian Westphal, a spokesman

for the International Committee for the Red Cross, said he couldn't say for sure whether the men in the mosque were prisoners or not.

"The fact that was reported was that he was wounded. But whether he was already a prisoner or not was not clear to me," Westphal said.

"We cannot, on the basis of TV images — no matter how disturbing and disconcerting they are — arrive at a judgment about an incident. We were not on the spot so we cannot be aware of all the circumstances of this incident," he said.

"It's clearly recognized that

people in combat situations are under enormous strain," Westphal said. But, he added, the Geneva Conventions are clear: Protection of wounded combatants once they are out of action is a basic rule.

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah Hassan al-Najdi said that while "killing a wounded person is rejected by us," the militants in Fallujah were responsible for their own brutal acts against Iraqis and foreigners, and were "killers and criminals."

Footage of the shooting was aired on Al-Jazeera television. Iraqis interviewed Tuesday in Baghdad harshly condemned the killing.

Family believes CARE director Margaret Hassan is dead

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Al-Jazeera television said Tuesday that it received a videotape showing the slaying of a woman believed to be hostage aid worker Margaret Hassan. Hassan's family in London said they believed the longtime director of CARE in Iraq was dead.

The station initially said it would air parts of the video, but then a spokesman said it would not. "We don't show acts of killing," said Jihad Ballout. "We've never

done it before, outside war."

CARE said in a statement, "It is with profound sadness that we have learned of the existence of a video in which it appears that our colleague Margaret Hassan has been killed. ... The whole of CARE is in mourning."

The 59-year-old Briton was abducted in Baghdad on Oct. 19, the most prominent of more than 170 foreigners kidnapped in Iraq this year. Her captors later issued videos showing her pleading for Britain to withdraw its troops from Iraq and calling for the release of female Iraqi prisoners.

Ballout said the station received the tape a few days ago but had not been sure of its authenticity.

"We invited British diplomatic officials to come and view it," he said. "It's now likely that the image depicts Mrs. Hassan."

Her four brothers and sisters said they believe Hassan is dead.

"Our hearts are broken," they said in a statement. "We have kept hoping for as long as we could, but we now have to accept that Margaret has probably gone and at last her suffering has ended."

The family did not indicate why they

now believed Hassan was dead, but said: "Those who are guilty of this atrocious act, and those who support them, have no excuses."

On Sunday, U.S. Marines found the mutilated body of what they believe was a Western woman on a street in a Fallujah during the U.S. assault on the insurgent stronghold. Besides Hassan, the only Western woman known held was Teresa Borcz Khalifa, 54, a Polish-born longtime resident of Iraq who was seized last month.

Born in Ireland, Hassan also held British and Iraqi citizenship. She lived in Iraq for 30 years and married an Iraqi.



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Punishment recommended for GIs who refused orders

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army is recommending punishment for about two dozen soldiers from an Army Reserve unit in Iraq that refused orders to drive a fuel convoy because they believed it was too dangerous, officials said Tuesday.

No final decisions have been made, and none of the soldiers has been charged with a crime, the officials said, but preliminary findings of an Army investi-

gation faulted about 24 members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company, which is based at Rock Hill, S.C.

About 18 of the 24 were held for nearly two days after refusing orders to drive a fuel convoy from Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq to a base north of Baghdad.

Another six also have been faulted.

Most of the accused face administrative actions such as fines or

reduction in rank, although officials said it was possible that some could face courts-martial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Their refusal to obey orders was deemed to be detrimental to good order and discipline.

Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, commanding general of 13th Corps Support Command, which manages the provision of fuel, food and ammunition across Iraq, ordered two investigations.

Former servicemembers resisting return to duty

Stars and Stripes

The Army has encountered resistance from more than 2,000 former soldiers it has ordered back to military work, complicating its efforts to fill gaps in the force, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

Many of these former soldiers — some of whom say they have not trained, held a gun or even gone for a jog in years — object to being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan now, after they thought they were through with active duty.

They are seeking exemptions, filing court cases or simply failing to report, moves that will be watched closely by approximately 110,000 other members of the Individual Ready Reserve, a corps of soldiers who are no longer on active duty but still are eligible for call-up, the Times said.

The Army has sent notices to more than 4,000 former soldiers informing them that they must return to active duty, but more than 1,800 of them have already requested exemptions or delays, many of which are being considered.



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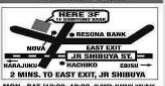
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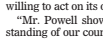
Colin Powell being praised by world leaders

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN

The Associated Press

TOKYO — World leaders lavished praise on Colin Powell as he stepped down as U.S. secretary of state, hailing his efforts to build international consensus and pledging to work closely with his replacement.

The outgoing Powell's standing as a balanced, multilateralist force in a U.S. administration that many, particularly in Europe and China, regarded as too



Powell

willing to act on its own. "Mr. Powell showed his understanding of our country, and made so many efforts to promote friendship," Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Tuesday. "I'd like to express my heartfelt respect for his efforts and achievements."

President Bush's most trusted foreign policy adviser, Condoleezza Rice, was tapped to replace Powell, a senior U.S. administration official said.

Koizumi, a steadfast supporter of Washington's policy in Iraq, said that "whoever takes over the position, the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship will not change."

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaochong called Powell "a good friend" in comments to Hong Kong reporters on the sidelines of Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Brazil. He added that the change in personnel would not change relations with Washington.

Global community has mixed feelings over Rice becoming secretary of state

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

PARIS — In Europe, it's hard for some to think of Condoleezza Rice — Colin Powell's replacement as U.S. secretary of state — without recalling the low points in trans-Atlantic relations that grew out of the war in Iraq.

After all, it was Rice who raised eyebrows last year with her Machiavellian suggestions for how Washington should treat European opponents of the U.S.-led invasion.

"Push France, ignore Germany and forgive Russia," Rice was widely quoted as telling associates in the spring of 2003.

Trans-Atlantic ties have since improved to some extent. But Rice's reputation still precedes her.

"Condoleezza is a woman with character, that's the least we can say," French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said Tuesday of President Bush's

trusted national security adviser.

Many in Europe, Asia and the Middle East believed Rice will add a more conservative, hawkish bent to U.S. diplomacy after Powell, seen by many as a moderating voice in a Cabinet of hawks.

One immediate issue she will face is the Mideast peace process following the death of Yasser Arafat.

Palestinians said the new Bush administration must put more energy into the quest for peace.

Israel warmly welcomed Rice's naming to the post, with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom saying: "She is a true friend to Israel. Her friendship toward Israel is very deep and stems from religious feelings and deep faith."



Rice

proach."

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who was visiting New York, told reporters that Powell knew Germany well because of the years he spent there in the U.S. military and said the government had an "excellent" and "friendly" relationship with him.

"I want to thank and wish him the best for the future," said Fischer, whose government was also opposed to the war. "We operated very closely even in the most critical issues."

In the Mideast, officials praised Powell as "fair," "dignified" and a "voice of moderation" in an administration many Arabs see as heavily-handed at best.

Many in the region are angry over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and Bush's failure to make progress toward peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

Nonetheless, Abdul Khaleq Abdullah, an Emirates-based analyst, said Arabs applauded Powell for his efforts.

"He came across as a moderate voice within the administration (and represented) the accepted face of America, the political center," in an administration full of hawks, Abdullah said.

Powell was one of few foreign diplomats to visit Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in his confinement in his Ramallah compound, only one month after Israeli imprisoned Arafat in March 2002.

Palestinian leaders said they hoped Powell's resignation would not dampen Bush's commitment to working for peace between their people and Israel.

"We really do hope that in President Bush's last term every effort will be exacted in order to realize President Bush's vision of a two-state solution on the ground," Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said.

See related story on Page 12

happened on Sept. 11, 2001," Straw said.

In France, all ally whose ties with America were badly strained over Iraq, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier praised Powell's skills as a diplomat — matching the feelings of many French that the American made the argument for war in Iraq while privately agreeing with Paris.

"For the last eight months, I have had friendly, frank relations with him," Barnier told Europe-1 radio. "He is a man who is a true professional of diplomacy."

Barnier became foreign minister

in March, replacing Dominique de Villepin — the main face of France's opposition to the Iraq war.

"Colin Powell was never arrogant," Barnier said, adding that Powell always worked to advance "the questions that preoccupy us all."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, a critic of the U.S. invasion, also called Powell a "good friend" and said he spoke to him after the announcement of his resignation and wished him well.

"I thanked him for the close and productive relationship I have enjoyed with him over the past four years during which we worked together on a wide range of issues of concern to the international community," Annan said in a statement. "I have always valued his wise counsel and objective ap-

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Japan reports Chinese 'regret' over intrusion of sub last week

BY NATALIE OBIKO PEARSON

The Associated Press

TOKYO — China acknowledged Tuesday for the first time that one of its submarines had accidentally crossed into Japanese waters last week and expressed regret over the incursion, Japan's foreign minister said.

But China refused to confirm Japan's Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura's remark, leaving the two sides publicly at odds over an incident that has strained relations between the two Asian powers.

Tokyo had lodged an official protest with Beijing on Friday, after the unidentified submarine was spotted in Japanese territorial waters near the southern island of Okinawa. Japan, which put its navy on alert and dispatched aircraft and destroyers to shadow the submarine, said the direction the vessel took and the fact that it was nuclear-powered indicated it was Chinese. Beijing didn't immediately respond.

On Tuesday, Machimura said Beijing had acknowledged to Tokyo that the submarine was Chinese.

An investigation by Chinese authorities has confirmed that it was a Chinese nuclear submarine, he said. "China has said that it regrets the incident and will carry on its policy of partnership with Japan unchanged."

Chinese officials said that the submarine had mistakenly entered Japan's "technical waters" on regular training, Machimura said.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said a Chinese diplomat conveyed a message to Japanese Ambassador Koreschke Janaki. But she wouldn't say whether it was an apology and refused to answer questions about whether the submarine belonged to China.

"The Chinese side has informed the Japanese side on relevant issues through diplomatic channels," Zhang said at a regular news briefing, without elaborating.

It wasn't clear why Beijing refrained from going public with its message.

But the move could fan worries among Japanese that China is adopting an increasingly hostile military posture as the two sides struggle for control over underwater natural gas fields and several disputed islands — known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

Japanese media recently have speculated that the incursion, which was close to those areas, was the Chinese military's attempt to expose the Japanese navy's vulnerabilities and test its response.

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Japan pondering sanctions against North Korea

Delegation: Pyongyang hasn't provide proof of abductees' alleged deaths

BY CHISAKI WATANABE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan on Tuesday warned it would consider withholding food aid for North Korea and other sanctions after accusing the communist country of failing to properly investigate the fates of Japanese citizens it kidnapped years ago.

North Korea has admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s to train them in Japanese language and culture. The regime released five in 2002 but has said the eight others died — a claim many Japanese don't believe.

North Korea has pledged to investigate the alleged deaths and provide more proof to Japan, but a Japanese delegation that returned from Pyongyang on Monday after a third round of talks said the North Koreans had little new information to offer.

The negotiators returned with the alleged remains of one victim and documents and possessions of the seven others, but the lack of substantial progress triggered a string of calls for tougher measures against the elusive regime.

"We are disappointed because there was no progress at all," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters Tuesday.

When asked about sanctions, he said: "After we make a thorough analysis, we will look into what we'll do."

Takeo Hiranuma, a former trade minister, said a group of parliamentarians had adopted a resolution Tuesday calling for immediate economic sanctions.

Cabinet approval is necessary to implement such a resolution.

Hiranuma, who chairs the group, said, "we will do our utmost to realize that."

Asked about whether Japan still planned to send a second installment of food aid to North Korea as planned, Hosoda said, "I think it is one of the things we need to look into."

Japan shipped half of a pledged 250,000 tons of food — wheat, corn, soy beans and edible oil — to North Korea earlier this year and planned to send the rest through the World Food Program and other international aid agencies before next April.

The aid was promised by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in May, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Il vowed to reinvestigate the whereabouts of the eight, plus two other unconfirmed kidnappings victims.

But the lack of concrete results have soured hopes of a resolution of the dispute, and Koizumi has

suggested sanctions are possible. Two earlier rounds of talks in Beijing this summer also made little headway.

"Our distrust of North Korea is growing," said the conservative Yomiuri Shimbun in an editorial Tuesday calling for Tokyo to halt further food aid until "substantial progress" was made.

Environment Minister Yuriko Koizumi said, "When dealing with this kind of country, we need to make sure that we convey it when we are angered."

On Monday, Japanese negotiators returned on a chartered flight carrying an urn said to contain the cremated remains of Megumi Yokota, who was 13 when she was kidnapped in 1977 on her way home from badminton practice. North Korea earlier said Yokota died in the communist country a decade ago, but Tokyo demanded proof.

Hosoda said Tuesday that it could take up to 10 days for DNA tests to be completed on Yokota's remains.

North Korean officials also handed over photos, records of traffic accidents and medical documents showing how seven other abductees died.

But they reiterated claims that the remains of six weren't available because floods had washed away their graves, providing weather records as evidence.

They also said two others the Japanese had asked Pyongyang for information on never entered North Korea.

"I think we need a reinvestigation based on the materials we got," Koizumi said Tuesday, responding to criticism by the victims' relatives that no information of significance was provided.

Kayoko Arimoto said she didn't believe the North's explanation that her daughter, Kenko, died in her sleep from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a coal-fueled heater at a guesthouse in November 1988. Kenko had moved to the house the day before.

Holding photographs of weather records and a drawing of a guesthouse provided by Pyongyang, Arimoto said: "It's really unbelievable... How could this be evidence for her death?"

Results of a public opinion poll released Tuesday showed most Japanese had low expectations of the North Korean investigation into the missing Japanese.

More than 80 percent of respondents said they did not believe North Korea was conducting a serious investigation, the Yomiuri said. The survey, conducted last week, polled 3,000 people of whom 1,886 gave valid responses. No margin of error was provided.

North Korea threatens to increase its 'nuclear deterrent' against U.S.

The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea threatened Tuesday to strengthen its "nuclear deterrent" to counter what it calls a U.S. plot to launch a nuclear war against the isolated communist state.

Minju Jon, a state-run newspaper, accused the United States of preparing for war on the Korean Peninsula instead of pursuing a peaceful solution to the dispute over the North's nuclear weapons program.

"No matter what the others say, our People's Army and people will further strengthen our nuclear deterrent force for self-defense," the daily was quoted as saying in a commentary carried by the North's official news agency, KCNA.

KCNA is monitored by South Korea's national Yonhap news agency.

North Korea has 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods which could yield enough plutonium for several bombs, when reprocessed with chemicals. North Korean diplomats have recently claimed that the country has "weaponized" the material.

South Korean officials estimate that North Korea has enough plutonium for two or three bombs.

Since last year, the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States have held three rounds of six-nation talks aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear ambitions, but no breakthrough has been reported.

A fourth round slated for September did not occur because North Korea refused to attend.



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IN THE STATES

President selects Rice to head Department of State

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced his first major foreign policy appointment to secretary of state on Tuesday, tapping Condoleezza Rice to replace war-torn-turned-diplomat Colin Powell as part of a sweeping second-term Cabinet overhaul.

"The secretary of state is America's face to the world and in Dr. Rice the world will see the strength, grace and decency of our country," Bush said in his national security adviser's office.

He thanked Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and national security adviser, for working "tirelessly and selflessly" on behalf of the country.

Rice is the second White House loyalist to lead a Cabinet post since Bush's re-election triggered a top-to-bottom shake-up that has presented several agency heads with the clear impression that their services were no longer needed. White House counsel Alberto Gonzales is Bush's nominee to replace Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Bush named Stephen Hadley, Rice's deputy, to replace her as national security adviser; the top White House-based foreign policy aide.

Rice, who is considered more

of a foreign policy hard-liner than Powell, has been Bush's national security adviser for four years.

But while she's known around the globe, her image on the world stage does not rival Powell's. The retired four-star general has higher popularity ratings than the president.

"Under your leadership, America is fighting and winning the war on terror," Rice said to her boss during the Roosevelt Room announcement.

If confirmed by the Senate, she would be the first black woman secretary of state.

Rice, raised in the segregated South, is an accomplished pianist and Russian scholar who Bush said was "taught that human dignity is a gift of God and that the ideals of America would overcome oppression."

Bush asked the Senate for quick confirmation. "The nation needs her," he said.

Besides Powell and Ashcroft, Education Secretary Rod Paige, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham resigned as Bush sought a fresh start for a second term.

Administration officials say Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson may be next. Officials close to Ridge say he may be willing to stay for a few months and advisers to Thompson hint that he may be open to another Cabinet post.

Rice, 50, worked at the National Security Council in former President George H.W. Bush's

White House and went on to be provost of Stanford University in California. She was widely considered the president's first choice for the top diplomat's job, despite reports that she intended to return to California or was hoping to replace Donald H. Rumsfeld as defense secretary.





Powell's deputy, Richard Armitage, is expected to follow Powell out the door.

"In together, out together," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said of Armitage, a long-term colleague of Powell's.

There had been speculation that Powell, 67, would stay on, at least for part of Bush's second term, but he told reporters Monday that he had made no offer to do so.

Bush's second-term Cabinet shake-up

The shuffling of President Bush's top advisers continued on Monday with Colin Powell's resignation from the Cabinet, along with confirmation that three other members would be leaving.



SECRETARY OF ENERGY	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION	SECRETARY OF STATE	SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
			
Spencer Abraham	Rod Paige	Colin Powell	Ann Veneman

AGE 52	71	67	55
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POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR

Sen. John Breaux, D-La.	Margaret Spellings, Bush's domestic policy adviser	National security adviser Condoleezza Rice	Chuck Conner, White House farm adviser
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Last week's shuffling

	The White House announced the resignation of Attorney General John Ashcroft (left) on Tuesday. President Bush then nominated Alberto Gonzales to replace him.		Secretary of Commerce Don Evans also resigned last week. A successor has not yet been chosen.
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SOURCE: Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Presidency

AP



Rice

2 more officials quit CIA

By KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADDER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two more top officials are leaving the CIA, signaling internal instability at the spy agency as CIA Director Porter Goss gets settled in.

The CIA's Deputy Director for Operations Stephen Kappes and his immediate deputy, Michael Sulick, told colleagues Monday morning that they were departing the agency, which was heavily criticized for prewar intelligence lapses in Iraq and the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. It's unclear whether Kappes and Sulick resigned voluntarily or were asked to step down. Both men were part of the CIA's Directorate of Operations, which is responsible for covert operations around the globe.

Last week, the agency's No. 2 official, John McLaughlin, also retired, citing personal reasons.

In a statement, Goss thanked Kappes and Sulick for their work.

"The legacy that both officers leave behind them is one of dedication to the covert mission of this agency," Goss said.

A front-runner for Kappes' job is the current director of the CIA's counterterrorist center, who cannot be publicly identified because he is undercover, said an intelligence official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Current agency officials are not allowed to talk with the media without permission, but have been in touch with former intelligence officials. Speaking on condition of anonymity, former officials described intense friction within the agency with Goss now in charge. And some say there are concerns that more CIA officers may be asked to resign or told that they no longer have a future at the agency.



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Nev. lawmaker to lead Senate Democrats

BY DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats are changing management, their ranks reduced to a 74-year low and their longtime leader defeated for re-election back home.

Sen. Harry Reid, a soft-spoken Nevada, is moving in as leader of the shrunken minority, while Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota moves out after a decade as the party's chief spokesman and strategist on the Senate floor.

Reid's ascension was preordained at Tuesday's meeting of Senate Democrats, their ranks smaller by four following the Nov. 2 elections. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, in line to succeed Reid as the party's second-ranking Senate leader, was also unopposed.

Reid, 64, takes command of a party that will have only 44 seats when the new Congress convenes in January, fewer than at any time since Herbert Hoover sat in the White House, according to records on the Senate's Web site.

With the exception of abortion

rights and gun control, both of which he opposes, Reid's recent voting record on major issues puts him in the mainstream of Senate Democrats.

"My senators who support me know who I am. No one has to guess where I stand on issues," he said in a recent interview. "I'm going to do what I think is right."

Reid, a veteran of 22 years in Congress, voted against President Bush's tax cuts in 2001 and opposed the final version of the administration's landmark Medicare overhaul legislation in 2003.

Like a majority of Democrats, he voted to give Bush authority to use military force to oust Iraq's Saddam Hussein, and voted many months later to spend \$87 billion to help pay the costs of military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, he helped bottle up a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages, and sided with organized labor when it sought to make sure no worker lost overtime rights under new administration regulations.

New leader for Senate Dems

Sen. Harry Reid, 64, a Democrat from small-town Searchlight, Nev., was chosen by colleagues Tuesday to replace Sen. Tom Daschle as Senate minority leader.

Education — B.A., Utah State University, 1961; J.D., George Washington University, 1964

Experience — Lt. Governor, Nevada, 1970; Chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission, 1977-82; U.S. Representative, 1982-86; U.S. Senator, 1986-present; Senate Minority Whip, 1998-present



AP

He's also worked with environmentalists to block drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

He's been a loyal supporter of Democratic filibusters against 10 of Bush's judicial nominees deemed extremists by a coalition of civil rights, women's and other groups.

An early test of Reid's strategy is likely to come on judicial ap-

pointments, and already, there is some pressure on him to stay the course set by Daschle.

"I would think that Sen. Reid and a number of Democratic senators and hopefully some moderate Republicans this time would continue that strategy," said Ralph Neas, head of People for the American Way, which worked to block several of Bush's appointments to the courts.

Reid has given little or no pub-

lic indication of his intentions, saying he wanted to wait until he had been elected to replace Daschle as Democratic leader. Daschle was defeated in his bid for a fourth term.

Senate Democrats lost seats this fall, they have more than the 41 votes needed to block Bush's legislation or his judicial appointments if they remain united. At the same time, some Democrats have said their party will have to pick its fights more carefully.

On the home front, Reid is a fierce opponent of the effort to build a repository for nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in his home state, and has used his seat on the Appropriations Committee to battle the administration.

Reid was first elected to the House in 1982, then won his Senate seat in 1986. Six years ago, he nearly lost a campaign for re-election, prevailing by only 428 votes. He won his fourth term far more easily two weeks ago.

Durbin, who celebrates his 60th birthday next week, served 14 years in the House before winning his Senate seat in 1996. He was re-elected in 2002 with 96 percent of the vote.

Man who ignited self in D.C. was informant

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A man who set himself afire near the White House was upset with the way he was being treated as an FBI informant, specifically complaining to The Washington Post about his inability to return to Yemen to visit his ill wife.

Mohamed Alanssi, 52, arrived at the White House gate just before 2 p.m. Monday with a letter addressed to President Bush. After talking briefly with uniformed Secret Service officers, he pulled a lighter from his pocket and set his clothing ablaze.

Although the officers, who had been alerted by the Post, acted quickly to extinguish the flames, emergency medical technicians said he suffered burns on his hands, neck and face.

Alanssi was taken to Washington Hospital Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The Post reported that Alanssi, who also used the name Mohamed Alhadrami, had informed the newspaper of his plans early Monday. He told The Post by fax and

telephone that he was "going to burn my body at unexpected places." He also faxed a letter to an FBI agent in New York who has had contact with him, the Post reported.

The paper said it alerted the New York agent about its contact with Alanssi and subsequently informed District of Columbia police when it learned from the man in a series of three telephone calls that he planned to set himself on fire outside the White House. The paper said D.C. police subsequently alerted federal authorities with jurisdiction around the White House.

In 2003, Alanssi was the subject of a Washington Post story describing his role as an informant for the FBI, providing information on terrorist financiers in Yemen.

Alanssi, of Falls Church, Va., told the Post in recent interviews that he was upset because he could not travel to Yemen to visit his ailing wife, who has breast cancer. He also said the FBI had not kept promises it made to him to secure his assistance.

NASA delays flight

LOS ANGELES — NASA delayed until Tuesday a planned flight of an unmanned hypersonic jet designed to reach a record speed of Mach 10, or 7,000 mph.

A problem developed with the plane's avionics shortly before the scheduled flight Monday, leaving too little time to reach the launch area as scheduled, NASA officials said.

Engineers planned to try again Tuesday to launch the plane off the California coast.

Just 12 feet long and 5 feet wide, the X-43A jet is mounted on a modified Pegasus rocket designed to be carried aloft by a B-52 aircraft and released at 40,000 feet. The rocket will carry the X-43A to 110,000 feet and separate, allowing the craft to fly for about 10 seconds with its super-sonic combustion jet operating.

The X-43A will then become a glider and perform maneuvers until it splashes into the ocean. The craft was designed to sink and will not be recovered.

From wire reports



Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

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FACES

Bette not ready to say goodbye

BY RICK MASSIMO

The Providence Journal

Bette Midler is in the midst of a nationwide tour, but unlike many of her contemporaries, she isn't calling this a "farewell."

"I'm not retiring," she says in a phone interview, "and you can't make me!"

Informed that Cher, Gloria Estefan and Barry Manilow have all done swan-song shows recently, she explodes.

"They're all retiring? My God, there's not going to be anyone left! [Although] Cher's been retiring for five years, babe."

Kidding aside (maybe not in Cher's case), Midler says she understands the impulse to pack it in.

"[Touring is] very hard work. It's hard, hard, hard. No matter who you are, and how you travel, it's very hard. ... And when you get to a certain age, you say to yourself, 'What do I need this for?'"

So what does Midler need this for? "I did this beautiful show, and I just want everyone to see it."

The show, Midler says, is "very elaborate, and I am elaborate in it."

It's full of her trademark singing, dancing and wisecracks, and it's set on Coney Island at the end of the 19th century.

The theme, Midler says, is "the amusement park of life, and/or death. ... Life as a funhouse, and everything wrapped around that."

Midler says the show has her hits, such as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Wind Beneath My Wings" and "The Rose," as well as new songs for her.

"People do like to hear the hits," she says, "and they do like to catch up with you and know what it was that happened to you."

As for her latest album, "Bette Midler Sings the Rosemary Clooney Songbook," she promises to fit in "as much as I can. It's hard to know, because if you sing that, something else has to go."

Midler says Clooney was one of her earliest favorites and influences.

"I went to her house and she cooked pasta for me. She was one of the sweetest people I ever met in my life. And that voice! That voice was coming out at me in the late '40s and the early '50s, and I never really got over it. It was just such an emblematic voice. It was a sound that really distilled the times that I was living in. It was gentle, genteel, warm. It had so much hope and promise in it. I just really adored her."

But the album, she says, was producer Manilow's idea.

"He told me he had a dream. Of course, what can you say when someone tells you he had a dream about you, OK?" Manilow was Midler's piano player and musical director very early in both of their careers. Working with him again was fun.

"He's a curious person — his own music and the music he does for others are not really the same thing. He's kind of like an architect."

"He knows a lot about music, and he can break it down. He's a terrific arranger. ... He knows how to get good work out of me."

Midler says that while she's not retiring ("It's foolish to say farewell, because you never know what life is going to hand you"), she also doesn't know what's next.

"I have nothing to announce."

I'm just trying to get through my shows in an elegant and timely fashion, retain my health and my voice, keep everyone around me from going mad and entertain the hordes."

After that? "Take a rest, and try to see what happened to [the audiences] and to me. Then look around for the music. Really, the only thing that I find inspiring is music and dance."

"That's my calling, and it's the heart of my reason to go. And if I can find that inspiration, it's great. And if I can't find it, then it really will be time to pack it in."



ABACA PRESS/RET

Bette Midler performs at Carnegie Hall in New York in April. The comical singer has no plans to retire anytime soon.

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Fight disrupts Vibe awards event

The Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — A fight broke out at the Vibe awards ceremony as rapper Snoop Dogg and producer Quincy Jones were preparing to honor Dr. Dre, and a man was stabbed, authorities and witnesses said.

Dozens of people sitting near the stage Monday inside a hangar at Santa Monica's airport began shoving each other as the show wound down. News video showed chairs being thrown, punches flying, people chasing one another and some being restrained. It was unclear if the stabbing preceded or followed the fight.

The 26-year-old victim was taken to

a hospital and was listed in stable condition. No arrests were made.

Witness Frank Williams said Dr. Dre was involved in the brawl.

"I saw Dr. Dre fighting somebody," he told KCAL-TV. "I don't know if he was fighting back. But there was a guy taken out basically blooded."

The Los Angeles Times, citing an unnamed associate of Dr. Dre, said the melee broke out as the acclaimed hip-hop producer was sitting at a front-row table waiting to receive the Vibe Legend Award. A man walked up to Dr. Dre's table and punched him, and Dr. Dre's bodyguards went after the man, the associate said.

Dr. Dre, who was scheduled to receive the award for his lifetime con-

tributions to hip-hop, had not come on stage yet when the fight erupted. Jones and Snoop Dogg stood on stage without saying anything.

Andrea Ferguson, employed by a public relations firm that worked with Dre for the second annual awards ceremony, called the incident a "disruption" but declined to provide details. About 1,000 people attended.

"It's really important that we don't take a negative incident like this and do away with the awards," Stue Knight told reporters.

Knight was released in 2001 from a prison term for assault and weapons violations, Dr. Dre obtained a court order to keep Knight away from him, the Times said. It was unclear whether the order was in effect Monday.



Rapper Snoop Dogg, left, and producer Quincy Jones prepare to present the "Vibe Legend Award" to hip hop producer/performer Dr. Dre shortly before a fight broke out in the audience, at the 2nd annual Vibe Awards at Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif., on Monday.

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Surfer escape

CA EUREKA — A surfer who was bumped off his board by a shark was able to push the animal away and paddle back to shore.

Brian Kang, 38, was 200 yards offshore Thursday, waiting for a wave in a popular surfing area near Eureka, when the shark knocked him into the water. The shark came back toward him as he tried to climb back onto the surfboard.

"It just came out of the blue," Kang said from his hospital bed, where he was being treated for gashes on his hip, knees and thumb. "I pushed it away with my hands."

Kang said he never got a good look at the shark, but another surfer spotted a 3-foot dorsal fin, which would indicate a great white shark.

It was the second shark attack along California's northern shore in recent months.

Apartment fire kills four

LA HARVEY — Four people died following a fire at an apartment complex in this New Orleans suburb and authorities said that some of the victims had non-fire related injuries.

A person was being detained by homicide investigators for questioning, but authorities refused to divulge any details.

A 30-year-old woman, an 11-year-old boy and a 1-year-old girl were dead at the scene. A 17-year-old girl was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital, while a 10-year-old boy was hospitalized with burns.

Fortunato said the woman, the 17-year-old girl and the 11-year-old boy had injuries apparently not related to the fire. He refused to discuss specifics. He also said investigators were questioning one person.

Doctrine of theft

MN WILLMAR — After its last pastor allegedly balked them out of \$10,000, leaders of Rejoice Ministries church thought they were being extra careful when they hired James Poole.

Still reeling from the theft, they asked Poole to come to the church and preach in a letter of caution to ensure Poole was legitimate before hiring him.

"He did a good service," church secretary Mary Steffens told The West Central Times of Willmar for a story in Saturday's paper. "I will give him credit for that."

Poole was hired in August, but less than a month later, he allegedly shipped town without repaying \$3,344 he "borrowed" from the church for rent, trips, even a new bathtub, Steffens said.

Church officials later learned that Poole — whose real name authorities believe is Jerry Andrews — had served jail time for writing bad checks and credit card theft.

Rejoice's congregation of 12 is now trying to decide whether to look for a new pastor or just shut down.

A walk through the hood

PA PITTSBURGH — State education officials rejected a request by parents and school administrators to help pay for buses so children would not have to walk through a crime-ridden neighbor-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

hood.

Pittsburgh Superintendent John Thompson asked state officials in a letter to designate some of the routes children walk to Homewood Elementary School as hazardous because eight people were shot within blocks of the school in a recent week.

Thompson sought two buses to ferry students to and from the school. More than half the school's 422 students walk to class.

But officials turned down the request, explaining that state law only allows the Department of Education to pay for buses if traffic, not crime, makes walking dangerous.

White-collar drug dealer

TN A Tennessee physician who launched a massive prescription drug fraud ring to support his own addictions racked up a 28-month prison term this week.

The punishment — dished out by U.S. District Court Senior Judge Leon Jordan — represented a nearly 50 percent break from what Dr. Christopher Castle, 48, had faced. "It reflects Dr. Castle's recognition of his responsibility for his criminal actions as well as his recognition of his co-conspirators' (crimes)," Assistant U.S. Attorney Hugh Ward told Jordan.

Castle pleaded guilty in May 2003 to conspiring with at least four other people in a prescription fraud scheme that involved more than 30,000 pills — many of which that wound up sold on the street



A day on the water

A group of sea kayakers gather on the Tennessee River for an all-day event, a fundraiser for the River Gorge Land Trust, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

and even inside a state prison, records showed.

Court records show that Castle's medical practice went spiraling out of control with his addiction to Adderall pills containing amphetamine.

That addiction led to a conspiracy in which Castle began writing prescriptions for his co-conspirators for painkillers including OxyContin, hydrocodone and Adderall.

Guacamole traffic jam

CA What all of the commuters on Highway 118 through California's Simi Valley needed Wednesday were some chips and salsa, and they would have been set.

A tractor-trailer truck carrying 75,000 pounds of avocados overturned on the freeway, blocking two lanes and snarling rush-hour traffic, authorities said.

The truck was heading west on the highway when it swerved to avoid a car and the driver lost control, California Highway Patrol Officer Tom Costigan said.

The semi landed on its right side, blocking two lanes and the shoulder. The large quantity of produce and the size of the truck made moving the semi and cargo difficult, Costigan said.

Bad senior care

NY ALBION — A judge sentenced a retired woman former caretaker on Monday to 1½ years in prison for stealing money from her.

Susan Standish Hare, 40, formerly of Medina, was convicted in August of burglary, grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property and forgery.

Hare was accused of stealing \$75,000 from a Lyndonville woman in the summer of 2003 and depositing it in a bank account she set up for herself.

Highway deaths up

AL MONTGOMERY — State troopers say the 657 fatalities in accidents this year has surpassed last year's total of 576 deaths.

A rash of 12 deaths the first three days of November drew attention to Alabama's growing highway death toll. Of this year's deaths, 275 occurred on county roads.

City may tax cell phones

OR PORTLAND — City commissioners will discuss this week a new tax that would impose a 5 percent fee on cell phones, call waiting, caller ID and phone calls placed using the Internet and other telecom services. The tax would add \$2 to a \$40 monthly cell phone bill and collect an estimated \$6 million a year.

GOP lands big spot

GA ATLANTA — Republicans in the Georgia House chose Rep. Glenn Richardson as the state's first GOP speaker since Reconstruction.

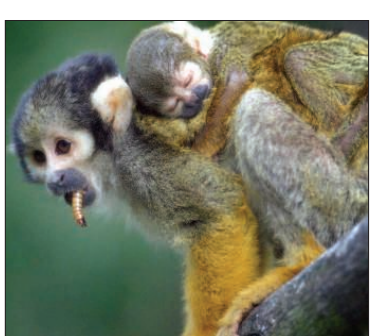
Hours later, party switches by two legislators elected as Democrats allowed the Republicans to claim their 98th seat in the 198-member chamber, even votes more than a majority. The GOP took a Senate majority two years ago.



Pig down that pig
Children scramble to capture a greased pig in an effort to win \$10 in prize money at the downtown Collinsville, Ala., Turkey Trot festival.



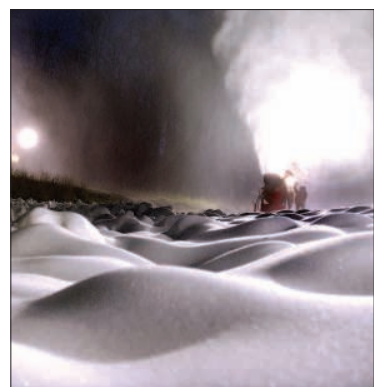
Explosive demo
A B-25 Mitchell bomber flies over Nellis Air Force Base during a D-Day re-enactment at the Aviation Nation air show in Las Vegas.



Hungry monkey
Poppy, a 14-year-old female squirrel monkey, eats a worm as her newborn, named Mimikey, sleeps on her back at the Oakland Zoo in Oakland, Calif.



Rain can't stop paving A work crew paves a black top during rainy weather on the state parking lot between the War Memorial and Statehouse in Trenton, N.J.



Man-made flurries The snow machines were up and running at the Granite Peak Ski Area in Wausau, Wisconsin.



Spreading its wings An American eagle takes to flight after feasting on an armadillo that was killed off the side of road near Gibson, La.



Taking a breather Cross country runner Buddy Davis, 19, catches his breath following a training run that ended during a brief snow fall in Flagstaff, Ariz.

New kids' hospital

IN SOUTH BEND — Memorial Hospital plans to build a children's medical center that could save families from having to travel to Chicago or Indianapolis for specialty care, officials said. The hospital has hired a project consultant who has worked on expansions at children's hospitals across the United States.

Officials hope to have a complete plan by late 2005.

Historical designation

DE LEWES — The portion of Cape Henlopen State Park once known as Fort Miles has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The designation enhances efforts to preserve and restore the site, including its observation towers, bunkers and dozens of buildings. Fort Miles was used by the military during World War II and turned over to the state 40 years ago.

Mass transit price hike

GA ATLANTA — Atlanta's mass transit system wants to double to \$3.50 the fare for trains leaving Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. MARTA general manager Nathaniel Ford said the increase could raise \$2 million a year for a system faced with cutting service and using \$30 million from a reserve fund to meet costs. If city and airport officials agree, the higher fare could begin next year.

Gas-and-go no more

ID TWIN FALLS — The City Council took action against drive-off gasoline thefts. At the request of retailers, it passed an ordinance requiring all cash customers to pay before pumping.

Stations failing to enforce prepayment could be fined. Police have fielded 210 reports of drive-off thefts this year. Retailers say they report only a fifth of the incidents.

Amish driver's ed

PA LANCASTER — The Lancaster Highway Safety Council introduced a driver's manual for Amish horse-and-buggy operators.

The Amish Community Safety Committee and the state Transportation Department have been working on the manual for nearly three years.

Its publication came just days after an Amish man died in a horse-drawn cart accident in Perry County.

Coal creates jobs

WV CHARLESTON — Increased coal mining and an improving national economy are expected to create 4,500 jobs a year in West Virginia through 2009, according to a West Virginia University study. The study also predicts that per-capita income will rise from \$23,383 to \$26,449. However, manufacturing job losses are expected to continue.

High rollers welcome

KS PARK CITY — The Park City Council voted 7-1 to pursue an Indian casino they said would create between 1,300 and

1,500 permanent new jobs in the community a few miles north of Wichita.

The casino plan calls for a hotel and a youth activities area that could feature a theme park and other attractions. The city and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska need federal and state approval for the casino.

HIV spreader convicted

WA OLYMPIA — A man was convicted by a judge Monday on charges he deliberately exposed 17 women to HIV by having unprotected sex with them. Five of the women have tested positive for the virus, which causes AIDS.

Anthony E. Whitfield, 32, faces a minimum sentence of 137 years in prison on the 17 counts of first-degree assault with sexual motivation and other charges.

Health officials said as many as 170 people may have been exposed to the virus because of Whitfield's actions, counting subsequent partners of women he had sex with. No additional people have tested positive for HIV, but 45 refused to be tested or couldn't be found.

Keeping their cash

RI PROVIDENCE — Gov. Don Carcieri's administration said its fiscal reform plan has already saved the state \$55 million.

The state has recovered money on everything from telephone services to stepped-up tax collections, although the governor's office acknowledges a large portion of the \$55 million figure is based on expected savings through the end of the fiscal year and beyond.

The largest amount — \$25 million — is the amount the administration claims they will save with the recent award of a new three-year contract for state employee health insurance to UnitedHealthcare, according to The Providence Journal.

"Tails" wins council seat

FL GROVELAND — The state that is the king of bizarre election finishes added another page to its quirky electoral history Friday in city council race decided by a coin toss.

G.P. Sloan, 77, and Richard Flynn, 75, each received 689 votes in the Nov. 2 election. No one emerged a winner after two recounts, so the candidates and three dozen supporters gathered for a coin flip Friday in the community center of this town of 4,400 residents located 25 miles west of Orlando.

The city manager flipped a bi-centennial dollar coin, and Flynn shouted "Heads." City manager Jason Yarbrough caught it and flipped it on to the back of his hand. "Tails it is," Yarbrough said, giving Sloan the victory.

"This is a very unusual occurrence in this day and age when we have such sophisticated mechanisms to vote on, such as a touch-screen computerized voter system," said Mayor Connie Fleetwood. "We've come down to a coin toss."

Florida law provides that candidates "draw lots" to determine a winner in the event of a tie. County election supervisors can determine the method of drawing lots, and Lake County in the past has used a coin toss.

Stories and photos from wire reports

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OPINION

GIs seeking tour viewed with respect

BY ST. LT. BILLY POPE

It was halfway through a long day of work at the Multinational Forces, Iraq, headquarters on Camp Victory in Baghdad when five scraggly-looking U.S. Army soldiers came walking up to "my" palace.

I passed them as I made my way for the front door and they said, "Excuse me, sir, how do we get into this place?"

I could tell they were the guys who really work for a living. None of them had changed their uniforms in a couple of days because of the demands of being in the road. They didn't smell the best, but who really smells good in Iraq?

I think the oldest one in the group was probably 22 and they had the "look" of the soldiers who have been in downtown Baghdad when the going was at its toughest.

They had just come in from the field and were resting before heading back out there and they wanted to tour the palace that Saddam Hussein had once used as his hunting-and-fishing gear. I was really busy pushing papers and initially I tried hard to brush off their question so I could get back to the office. I thought about it as I hurried by and I realized that my priorities were in the wrong place. My next meeting wasn't

for a half hour so I got them visitor passes and I started showing them around.

Their eyes lit up with every new room we entered. They took a bunch of pictures of themselves in Saddam's throne, and they wanted a group picture in front of the huge chandelier in the middle of the rotunda. I was having the time of my life watching their reaction to the place I get to work in every day.

We went up on the roof so they could check out the view. I walked around for a while and I pointed out downtown Baghdad and the surrounding area — like an "expert." We went around to the other side of the roof and I pointed out the fires that are burning in Fallujah from days of house-to-house, unimaginable fighting and horror.

Without even meaning to, they put this lieutenant in his place when one of them said "Yes, sir, that sure is Fallujah. We have been there for the last three days in the middle of the fight. That bridge that's on fire is the ... and that one over there is ..."

It turns out these five guys are a "gun truck" crew that escorts fuel trucks to the middle of the combat zone. In short, it's their job to drive a Humvee with a 50-caliber on top at the front of convoys. They

spend their day looking out for people who want to kill them with rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, rockets, roadside bombs, car bombs, machine guns, and other assorted deadly weapons that have claimed the lives of more than a thousand of our fighting men and women since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their Humvee has been destroyed in an attack once. The vehicle they are driving now has "tank guts" on it from an attack a few days ago, they joke.

If that's not enough, the fuel trucks they escort are in and of themselves giant rollovers of bombs. They've been doing this job every day for nine months and they've got three months left before they return home.

I've given the same tour to generals and colonels on many occasions and they are always thankful and appreciative. This time, it was my pleasure, however, to spend some time with these five young enlisted soldiers who put their lives on a thin line every day for a war they probably don't even fully understand. All they know is that they love their country and what she stands for, and I'm proud to have shaken their hands before they went back to work.

Tonight, they head back to Fallujah for another day on the office.

St. Lt. Billy Pope is serving with the Air Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad.

Dollar must have yen to improve vs. euro

Los Angeles Times

Wall Street has rallied since George W. Bush painted the country red, led by the stocks of defense contractors, pharmaceutical companies and insurance peddlers that expect to benefit from four more years. But Bush hasn't fared so well in what we might call with a nod to the vanquished Sen. John Kerry — the global test. In what amounts to a vote of no confidence in the U.S. economy, the dollar has faded against the yen and the yen on fears that a second Bush administration will continue to do to the nation what the first did — hobble it with a lot more debt.

The weak dollar reflects growing concerns that Washington is unwilling or unable to get its books in order. Foreign investors also worry that the president and Congress will begin in the face of growing protectionist pressure from apparel companies, furniture makers and other industries being pummeled by cheaper foreign goods. Anything that hurts confidence in this country's economy would be bad news, because the Unit-

ed States is increasingly dependent on foreign investment.

The administration blithely maintains that the dollar is strong and that the U.S. economy will grow itself out of any problems. Future growth, the rosy story line suggests, will drive new tax revenue, even as American companies make goods so attractive that foreigners can't resist.

The last week did bring good news on that front, with September's trade deficit coming in slightly lower (\$51.6 billion) than had been predicted. The Federal Reserve also nudged up interest rates, though they still will have to be raised further to stem the erosion of the greenback's value. [Last Wednesday, the dollar slipped to a new

all-time low against the yen.] The world's central banks clearly are feeling political pressure to intervene on the increasingly touchy subject of whether exchange rates reflect economic reality. Regardless of that debate, the dollar will remain hamstringed by the administration's refusal to raise taxes or cut spending. The danger is that in order to contin-

ue attracting foreigners' money, the day will come when the Fed will have to respond to a weak dollar and widening federal and trade deficits by raising interest rates more abruptly than otherwise prudent.

After all, the buck has to stop somewhere.

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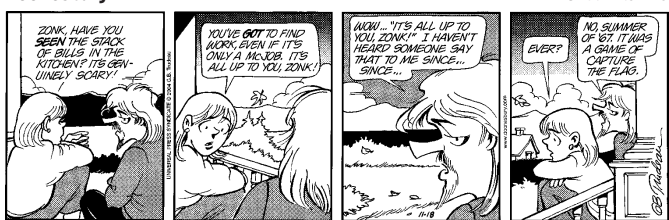
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Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Democrats can rejuvenate party from within

It is sometimes said that one of Margaret Thatcher's greatest achievements is the modern Labor Party. That is to say, her political success was so devastating to Britain's socialists that they had no choice but to throw socialism overboard to win elections.

Philip Terzian



Something comparable might happen to the Democrats, but I wouldn't bank on it. Two weeks after the shock of George W. Bush's re-election has hardly worn off, and the three "r's" reassessment, recrimination and renewal — are getting under way again. The Democrats are becoming excited at post-defeat post-mortems: They remind me of Sylvia Plath's Lady Lazarus, who explains that "Dying / Is an art, like everything else. / I do it exceptionally well."

Are the Democrats dying? The quick answer is no. John Kerry, for all his liabilities as a candidate, won 48 percent of the popular vote, a higher percentage than Bill Clinton, and 10 million more votes than Clinton received in 1992. The Democrats remain a viable minority in Congress, and roughly held their own among governorships and state legislatures. The same percentage of voters who identify themselves to pollsters as Republicans call themselves Democrats.

But in politics, modest differences in voter allegiance amount to vast divergences in power. Since 1968, the White House has been in GOP hands for 24 of the past 36 years. No Democrats from outside the South has been elected president since John F. Kennedy — who, lest we forget, squeaked by Richard Nixon in dubious circumstances. A one-vote majority in Con-

gress (remember Jim Jeffords?) is all it takes to control the machinery of the legislative branch.

The next three or four justices of the Supreme Court are likely to be nominated by Bush.

This does not mean that the Democrats are "a national party no longer," as Zell Miller puts it; but prospects are bleak. In the long term, it is now possible to see that the Democratic Party has been in a historic decline since Lyndon Johnson's defeat of Barry Goldwater in 1964. Between 1930 and 1994, Democrats controlled Congress for 60 years, and by huge majorities. In much of the second third of the 20th century, the Roosevelt coalition of urban and rural residents, minorities and blue-collar workers let the Democrats dominate the statehouses, the South, Congress and the White House. No longer.

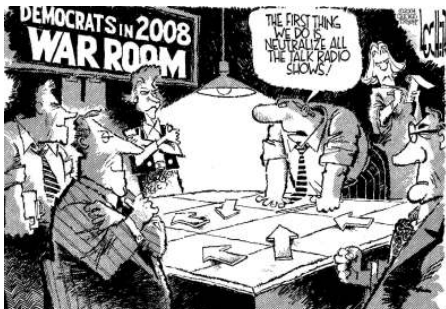
"The Solid South," which once meant the solidly Democratic South, is now solidly Republican, and Ronald Reagan broke the allegiance of blue-collar voters to Democrats. The GOP has controlled both houses of Congress since 1994, with the exception of 2001 to early 2003, when Jeffords' shift from Republican to independent let Democrats briefly take over the Senate.

Further, Bush is the first Republican president since William McKinley, in 1900, to win re-election and retain control of Congress.

Even Hispanics seem to be slipping from the Democrats' grasp: Bush won 44 percent of their votes this year, a big increase from 2000, and the next Republican presidential candidate could gain a majority of Hispanic voters in 2008.

I cite these figures not to rub it in, but to emphasize the Democrats' challenge: Either they examine themselves very carefully in the mirror, and make adjustments, or the differences between the two parties will grow more unbalanced.

Democrats have been so accustomed to their (former) status as the national party



of government that they have failed to grasp the meaning of their decline. In their view, Republicans never win elections by legitimate means, but only through fraud, deception or appeals to bigotry.

Reagan, they assert, was an amiable B-movie actor who hypnotized the electorate. George H.W. Bush, they say, catapulted to power on the shoulders of Willie Horton. The incumbent President Bush, they complain, was "selected" by a bare majority of the Supreme Court, and has ridden to victory this year with lies and shameless appeals to chauvinism and religious zealotry.

As long as Democrats console themselves in such terms, things can only get worse. They need to recognize that most voters who cast Republican ballots are not stupid, or misguided, or malevolent, but citizens assessing their own, and the na-

tion's, interests and making informed choices.

Since the late 1960s, Democrats have been in thrall to special interests (teacher unions, trial lawyers, affirmative action) and uncomfortable with the use of force in defense of national interest and religious faith as an expression of ethical values. John Edwards notwithstanding, they are not the party of the Little Guy, but the Guys and Gals who look with horror on the Little Guy's beliefs about marriage, patriotism or abortion. While Republicans embraced Middle America, the Democrats became the party of economic envy, the Hollywood Left, the media elite and increasingly isolated tribes of urban/suburban dwellers who disdain Flyover America.

Comfortably arrogant, perhaps, and doomed to minority status.

Philip Terzian, The Providence (R.I.) Journal's associate editor, writes a column from Washington.

Timing of Cabinet change allows for smooth swaps

BY DALE MCFEATHERS

Scraps Howard

President Bush had a remarkably stable Cabinet in his first term, which makes the current reshuffle a departure of six Cabinet secretaries, with hints of more to come, all the more dramatic.

Two departures during his first term were less than happy. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill was fired and Christine Todd Whitman, the Cabinet-level head of the Environmental Protection Agency, left under chilly circumstances.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez left for a successful Senate run in Florida, and White House budget director Mitch Daniels left for a successful run for Indiana governor.

Then, in short order after the election, the attorney general and the secretaries of state, energy, education, agriculture and commerce all announced they were leaving. That's six of the 15 in the Cabinet.

(Presidents also get to designate certain officials — the trade rep, for example — as Cabinet-level.) But traditionally a president elected to a second term sees about three-fourths of his Cabinet turnover. President Bill Clinton was a rare example of Cabinet stability; five of his were with him the full eight years.

Although there might have been a gentle push and here, Bush's Cabinet turnover seems generally amicable. Top administration officials leave for a variety of good reasons — burnout, health, more time with the family, an opportunity to make much more money in the private sector, to seek another office.

A civilized parting of the ways may serve Bush well later on. The day after President Nixon was re-elected in a landslide, he peremptorily demanded the res-

ignations of every member of his Cabinet and all of his staff. Nixon, in rationalizing what he later admitted was a bad mistake, said he wouldn't have accepted most of them, but he wanted a dramatic way to symbolize a new beginning. But his appointees saw it as a stunning act of arrogant ingratitude. He had alienated many people he would need later on.

The new resignations come at a propitious time for the White House.

Official Washington is in a kind of lull

right now. The lame-duck Congress will finish up only its most pressing business and the new Congress doesn't take its seats until January.

That gives the White House time to line up replacements and get the time-consuming chores of background checks and financial disclosures out of the way. That way the Senate, when it returns, will have no excuse for dawdling on confirmation of his nominees.

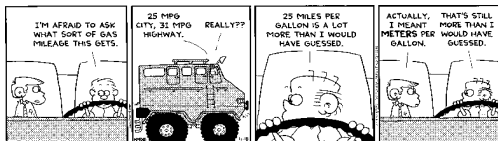
This may be a wholesale turnover, but it is shaping up as an exceptionally orderly one.

Mallard Fillmore

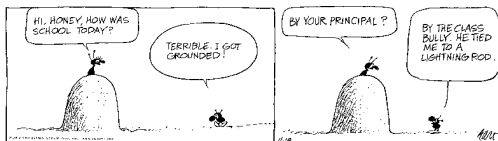
BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



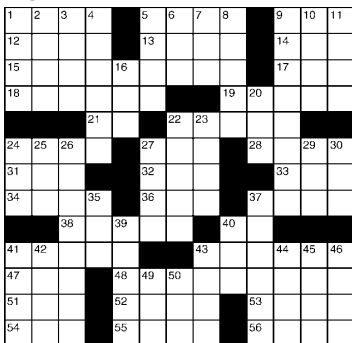
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Penicillin source
5 Send forth
9 Glutton
12 Duel tool
13 Cheney predecessor
14 Brewed beverage
15 Kansas symbol
17 Writer Fleming
18 Analyzes ore
19 Figure out who-done-it
21 Yours truly
22 Watt's power
24 Otherwise
27 "Humbly!"
28 Mexican entree
31 Swamp
32 Had 28-Across
33 Diamond score
34 Implement
36 "See ya!"
37 Computer info unit

Down

- 1 Small plateau
2 Comic penguin
3 Photog's choice
4 Slander
5 Hollywood clasher
6 Take blades to blades
7 Anger
8 Laconic
9 Long forward pass
10 Scandinavian name
11 Splice's material
16 Caustic solution
20 Bran provider
22 Attendant of Dionysus
23 Quaker's address
24 Salmander

- 25 MGM mascot
26 Grow exponentially
27 Innocent one
29 Slash
30 Indivisible
35 7-faced doctor of film
37 Lullaby penner
39 Public meeting place
40 Mythical monster
41 Cash-drawer section
42 Met melody
43 Condominium, e.g.
44 "Cool!"
45 Bruins' home
46 Revue piece
49 Censur
50 Misfortune

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-18

CRYPTOQUIP

F O R T S H V Y I C F O H
F R M M Y T H O U I C V R K O U O R W X
Y M J X Y J K X . O L X F S X O T L
H Q O U F O W Q X N H T Q Y N W .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PARASITE HAD
STRANGE, ARGUABLE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, I
RECKON IT'D BE A HERETICK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

Young women: No hurry to date

Dear Abby: My 16-year-old daughter went through exactly what the 16-year-old girl, "Not Interested in North Carolina," is experiencing.

I encouraged my daughter to make a list of all the things she wanted to accomplish in the future, and tell me if having a boyfriend would help. After she read what she had written, she came to the conclusion that dating was out for now, and she's fine with it. Now, when she feels peer pressure at school, she looks at her list — which includes being a wonderful daughter, going to the college of her choice and traveling to certain foreign countries.

"Not Interested" should tape a similar list to her mirror or on the

— Encouraging Mom,
Midland, Texas

Dear Mom: After "Not Interested's" letter was printed, I was

deluged with letters and e-mail from readers offering support. The number was overwhelming — too many to count.

Read on:

Dear Abby: I hope that girl doesn't succumb to peer pressure. It's far more important to know who you are than to have a boyfriend. Having healthy relationships should be her focus, not fitting into what "society" tells her to do.

I am 24 and engaged to be married next summer. By waiting until I was ready, I knew exactly what kind of relationship I wanted and have found a wonderful man who shares my values.

— Happy I Waited in Ohio

Dear Happy: I agree, it takes courage not to follow the crowd. Not one of those who wrote to support "Not Interested" was



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Paul rallies Wake Forest

Star fuels Deacons' second-half surge vs. GW

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Wake Forest struggled with turnovers, shaky ballhandling and poor free-throw shooting in its first game of the season.

Fortunately for the second-ranked Demon Deacons, Chris Paul was there to help them through it.

Paul scored 25 points and made several big plays in a decisive second-half run to send Wake Forest past George Washington 97-76 Monday night in the preseason NIT.

"There's still some rough edges that we can smooth out," Paul said. "I think we played together tonight, but we still have a lot of work."

Paul had six assists and three steals in 37 minutes despite being banged around by the physical Colonials defense, leading the Demon Deacons to a second-round home game Thursday against Virginia Commonwealth.

Justin Gray added 18 points and seven steals for the Demon Deacons, and Vytas Danelius scored 17.

Paul's effort was the highlight of a Wake Forest performance that followed a familiar pattern from last season. The Demon Deacons had four players score in double figures and shot 56 percent, but they had trouble on defense until switching to a triangle-and-two late in the game.

Ultimately, the Demon Deacons did enough late to secure their 11th straight season-opening victory.

George Washington (0-1) tried several half-court and fullcourt trapping defenses, hoping to force Paul — the leading vote-getter on The Associated Press preseason All-America team — to give the ball up.

When the Colonials failed, Paul made them pay by spinning through double teams, penetrating into the lane and finding open teammates.

He certainly paid for it. The sophomore was fouled several times while trying to bring the ball upcourt against the traps. He bruised his knee when he fell on a drive to the basket. At one point, he was even stepped on by teammate Kyle Visser after being knocked down under the basket.

The Demon Deacons led by 14 early in the second half, but struggled to put away the Colonials. George Washington hit eight three-pointers, closing to 75-70 on a three by Carl Elliott midway through the second half.

But Paul made sure the Demon Deacons did not disappoint their rowdy crowd, leading a 10-2 charge that finally gave them a working margin in the final minutes.

In other preseason NIT games Monday:

Michigan 59, Binghamton 46: In Ann Arbor, Mich., Dion Harris scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half to help the Wolverines rally from an early deficit.

Harris was just 1-for-5 in the first half as the Wolverines fell behind by 12 points and trailed 32-28 at intermission.

Daniel Horton led Michigan with 17 points. Trailing 39-32, Michigan seized control on both ends of the floor with Brent Petway's dunk off an alley-oop pass from Harris that gave the Wolverines a 41-39 lead with 12:35 to play. It was Michigan's first lead since Horton opened the game with a three-point shot.

Michigan went on a 21-2 run over a 12:05 span to overtake the Bearcats, who missed 18 consecutive shots from the field during the Wolverines' scoring spree.

Colorado 72, Charleston 57: Freshman Richard Roby led host Colorado's balanced scoring with 19 points.

Roby showed plenty flash and dash, breaking out for dunks, creating room for his jump-



Chris Paul (3) had 25 points, six assists and three steals to lead Wake Forest to a 97-76 victory over George Washington on Monday.

er and setting up teammates in his debut. He added eight rebounds and shot 7-for-11, including a three-pointer with 5 minutes left after Charleston cut the lead to 63-55.

Julius Ashby added 13 points and Jayson Obazuyue had 10 for Colorado.

Josh Jackson had 12 points to lead Charleston, which shot 26 percent and was 4-for-26 on three-pointers.

Va. Commonwealth 82, American 76 (OT): In Richmond, Va., B.A. Walker scored nine of his 27 points in overtime as the Rams (1-0) earned the opportunity to play No. 2 Wake Forest, which beat VCU 79-78 last year in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Andre Ingram set a Siegel Center record with 38 points, and had 18 in the first half as the Eagles (0-1) led 36-24 at halftime.

Welch, Hood lead AFA over Ole Miss

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Antoine Hood scored 15 points and Nick Welch added 14, leading Air Force to a 60-36 victory over Mississippi in Monday's second round of the Black Coaches Association Classic.

Matt McCraw added 11 points for Air Force (2-0). The game was in the winner's bracket on the second day of the three-day tournament.

Mississippi (1-1) was led by Todd Abernethy with 12 points.

McCraw had a three-point play and Welch a three-pointer to help the Falcons turn a halftime tie into a 25-19 lead.

Abernethy hit a three-pointer for Ole Miss to make it 25-22, but Air Force scored four straight points and the Rebels never got closer than seven points.

Preseason NIT

First Round
Tuesday, Nov. 16

Niagara at Providence
Quinnipiac at Pennsylvania
Wright State at Tulsa
San Diego at Arizona

Quarterfinals

Wednesday, Nov. 17

Colorado at Michigan



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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—Boiling Chris Byrd and Jamie McClintock for Byrd's Bill heavyweight title bout. Ruiz vs. McMahon (11-10) at Madison Square Garden. **AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.**—Tennis: ATP Masters Cup Day 4 (10).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—College basketball: AFN-Prescription NT: Teams to be determined.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—NBA: Miami at Detroit (10-11). **AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.**—Soccer: Jamaica vs. Trinidad (10-11). **AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.**—Tennis: ATP Masters Cup Day 4 (10).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Darlington 200 (10-11).

Friday

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.—Golf: World Cup, first round.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: San Antonio at Philadelphia.

AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.—College football: Maryland at Virginia Tech.

AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.—NBA: New York at Boston.

AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.—NBA: Inside the NBA.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Memphis vs. St. Mary's at New York.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Mississippi State vs. Syracuse at New York.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—Tennis: ATP Masters Cup Day 4 (10).

All times Japan and Korea Standard Time. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Nov. 18
No. 15 Virginia Tech vs. Maryland

Friday, Nov. 19
No. 2 Auburn at Alabama
No. 5 Oklahoma at Baylor
No. 4 California vs. Stanford
No. 2 Utah vs. BYU
No. 7 Michigan at Ohio State
No. 8 Louisville at Houston
No. 10 Wisconsin at St. Louis
No. 10 Florida State vs. Florida
No. 11 Wake Forest at Wake Forest
No. 13 Boise State vs. Louisiana Tech
No. 15 LSU vs. Mississippi
No. 15 Tennessee at Vanderbilt
No. 16 Auburn at Georgia Tech
No. 18 UT-Panhandle at Temple
No. 20 UTUT vs. SMU

NCAA Division I-AA football
The top two teams in the Philadelphia Division will play each other, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 14 and all times local.

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1.	Western Illinois (105)	10-1	218
2.	Furman (3)	8-2	297
3.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
4.	Georgia Southern	9-2	290
5.	New Hampshire	9-2	290
6.	William & Mary	9-2	290
7.	Montana	9-2	290
8.	Lynchburg	9-2	290
9.	Sam Houston State	9-2	290
10.	Indiana	9-2	290
11.	Harvard	9-2	290
12.	North Carolina	9-2	290
13.	Northwestern State	9-2	290
14.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
15.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
16.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
17.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
18.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
19.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
20.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
21.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
22.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
23.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
24.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
25.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290

NCAA Division II football
The top two teams in the Philadelphia Division will play each other, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 14 and all times local.

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1.	Western Kentucky (105)	10-1	218
2.	Furman (3)	8-2	297
3.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
4.	Georgia Southern	9-2	290
5.	New Hampshire	9-2	290
6.	William & Mary	9-2	290
7.	Montana	9-2	290
8.	Lynchburg	9-2	290
9.	Sam Houston State	9-2	290
10.	Indiana	9-2	290
11.	Harvard	9-2	290
12.	North Carolina	9-2	290
13.	Northwestern State	9-2	290
14.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
15.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
16.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
17.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
18.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
19.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
20.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
21.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
22.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
23.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
24.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
25.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290

NCAA Division III football
The top two teams in the Philadelphia Division will play each other, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 14 and all times local.

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1.	Western Kentucky (105)	10-1	218
2.	Furman (3)	8-2	297
3.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
4.	Georgia Southern	9-2	290
5.	New Hampshire	9-2	290
6.	William & Mary	9-2	290
7.	Montana	9-2	290
8.	Lynchburg	9-2	290
9.	Sam Houston State	9-2	290
10.	Indiana	9-2	290
11.	Harvard	9-2	290
12.	North Carolina	9-2	290
13.	Northwestern State	9-2	290
14.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
15.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
16.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
17.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
18.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
19.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
20.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
21.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
22.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
23.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
24.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290
25.	Western Kentucky	9-2	290

NCAA Division III playoffs

First Round

Saturday, Nov. 20
Curry, Mass. (9-2) at Hobart, N.Y. (9-2)
Muhlenberg, Pa. (8-2) at St. John Fisher, N.Y. (9-2)

Sunday, Nov. 21
Shenandoah, Va. (7-3) at Delaware Valley, Pa. (9-2)

Monday, Nov. 22
Bridgeport, Va. (8-2) at Washington & Jefferson, Pa. (9-2)

Tuesday, Nov. 23
Mount St. Joseph, Ohio (10-0) at Wheaton, Ill. (9-2)

Wednesday, Nov. 24
Aurora, Ill. (6-4) at Wooster, Ohio (10-0), 10 a.m.
Christopher Newport, Va. (8-2) at Salisbury, Md. (9-2), 10 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 25
St. Norbert (9-1) at Wisconsin-La Crosse (9-2), 10 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 26
Warburg, Iowa (8-2) at Concordia-Moorhead (10-0), 10 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 27
Mary Hardin-Baylor (9-1) at Trinity, Texas (9-2), 10 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 28
Illamante, Ore. (7-3) at Occidental, Calif. (9-2), 10 a.m.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 schedule

Tuesday's game
No. 10 Arizona vs. San Diego

Wednesday's game
No. 19 North Carolina vs. New Orleans

Thursday's games
No. 2 Wake Forest vs. Virginia Commonwealth
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 12 Mississippi State

Friday's games
No. 1 Kansas vs. No. 13 Duke
No. 2 Virginia Tech vs. No. 10 Arizona

Saturday's games
No. 19 North Carolina State vs. Elon or Fairleigh Dickinson
No. 24 Memphis vs. St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden

Sunday's games
No. 1 Georgia Tech vs. Alabama State
No. 10 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Monday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Tuesday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Wednesday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Thursday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Friday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Saturday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Sunday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Monday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Tuesday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Wednesday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Thursday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Friday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Saturday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Sunday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Monday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Tuesday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Wednesday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
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Thursday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

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No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Saturday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Sunday's games
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Monday's games
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Tuesday's games
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Guardians Classic

First Round

Crelighton, Va. (9-2) at Seaboard, N.C. (9-2)
Drake, Ind. (9-2) at Morris, Mo. (9-2)
Michigan State (9-2) at Houston, S.C. (9-2)
Iona, N.Y. (9-2) at Arizona, Ariz. (9-2)
New York, N.Y. (9-2) at Brown, Ohio (9-2)
Texas, Tex. (9-2) at Wisconsin, Wis. (9-2)

Sunday, Nov. 21
Colorado, Colo. (9-2) at Charleston, S.C. (9-2)
Michigan, Mich. (9-2) at Birmingham, Ala. (9-2)
Valdosta State, Ga. (9-2) at Valdosta, Ga. (9-2)
Wake Forest, N.C. (9-2) at Washington, D.C. (9-2)

Monday, Nov. 22
Iowa, Ia. (9-2) at Eastern Michigan, Mich. (9-2)
LSU, La. (9-2) at Houston, S.C. (9-2)
St. Augustine, Fla. (9-2) at St. Augustine, Fla. (9-2)
Wichita, S.D. (9-2) at Wichita, S.D. (9-2)

Tuesday, Nov. 23
No. 1 Tennessee at Chattanooga
No. 4 Connecticut at Connecticut
No. 5 Georgia vs. Chattanooga
No. 6 Baylor vs. Indiana
No. 7 Stanford at Utah
No. 8 Baylor vs. Indiana
No. 9 North Carolina vs. Elon
No. 10 Virginia Tech vs. Wake Forest

Wednesday, Nov. 24
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Thursday, Nov. 25
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Friday, Nov. 26
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Saturday, Nov. 27
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Sunday, Nov. 28
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Monday, Nov. 29
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Tuesday, Nov. 30
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Wednesday, Nov. 31
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Thursday, Dec. 1
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Friday, Dec. 2
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Saturday, Dec. 3
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Sunday, Dec. 4
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Monday, Dec. 5
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Tuesday, Dec. 6
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Wednesday, Dec. 7
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Thursday, Dec. 8
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Friday, Dec. 9
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Saturday, Dec. 10
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Sunday, Dec. 11
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Monday, Dec. 12
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Tuesday, Dec. 13
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Wednesday, Dec. 14
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Thursday, Dec. 15
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Friday, Dec. 16
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Saturday, Dec. 17
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Sunday, Dec. 18
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Monday, Dec. 19
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Tuesday, Dec. 20
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Wednesday, Dec. 21
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Thursday, Dec. 22
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Friday, Dec. 23
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Saturday, Dec. 24
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Sunday, Dec. 25
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Monday, Dec. 26
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Tuesday, Dec. 27
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Varsity League MVP votes

First Round

Crelighton, Va. (9-2) at Seaboard, N.C. (9-2)
Drake, Ind. (9-2) at Morris, Mo. (9-2)
Michigan State (9-2) at Houston, S.C. (9-2)
Iona, N.Y. (9-2) at Arizona, Ariz. (9-2)
New York, N.Y. (9-2) at Brown, Ohio (9-2)
Texas, Tex. (9-2) at Wisconsin, Wis. (9-2)

Sunday, Nov. 21
Colorado, Colo. (9-2) at Charleston, S.C. (9-2)
Michigan, Mich. (9-2) at Birmingham, Ala. (9-2)
Valdosta State, Ga. (9-2) at Valdosta, Ga. (9-2)
Wake Forest, N.C. (9-2) at Washington, D.C. (9-2)

Monday, Nov. 22
Iowa, Ia. (9-2) at Eastern Michigan, Mich. (9-2)
LSU, La. (9-2) at Houston, S.C. (9-2)
St. Augustine, Fla. (9-2) at St. Augustine, Fla. (9-2)
Wichita, S.D. (9-2) at Wichita, S.D. (9-2)

Tuesday, Nov. 23
No. 1 Tennessee at Chattanooga
No. 4 Connecticut at Connecticut
No. 5 Georgia vs. Chattanooga
No. 6 Baylor vs. Indiana
No. 7 Stanford at Utah
No. 8 Baylor vs. Indiana
No. 9 North Carolina vs. Elon
No. 10 Virginia Tech vs. Wake Forest

Wednesday, Nov. 24
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

Thursday, Nov. 25
No. 19 North Carolina vs. Santa Clara at The Arena in Oakland

Friday, Nov. 26
No. 5 Syracuse vs. No. 20 Memphis or St. Mary's, Calif. at Madison Square Garden
No. 6 Illinois vs. Delaware State
No. 7 Oklahoma State vs. Wake Forest

Saturday, Nov. 27
No. 12 Mississippi State vs. No. 24 Memphis
No. 13 Duke vs. No. 10 Arizona

HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Kadena happy with 'C's in Far East

Consistency, continuity, confidence help boost cross country runners, tennis players to the top

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

The Kadena Panthers soared to new Far East tournament heights this fall, and players and coaches say the success stems from the three C's — consistency, continuity and confidence.

Kadena became the first Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific squad to win every title in a Far East cross country meet and the first to repeat as overall team champion.

The Panthers tennis team became first DODDS-Pacific squad to capture the team title — it's first in 15 years — and have a player win an individual gold medal — sophomore Amy Lopes.

"We all felt like we should win it," senior tennis player Anthony Soroka said of the Panthers' 55-53 team victory over Seoul American.

Following a second-place finish in 2003, Soroka said, "We gave extra hours of practice. . . . We had a chance to win. We gave it our all."

"We just had a confidence. Not cocky, just confident," said junior runner Niki Kauzlarich, who joined senior Jon Turner as individual cross country champs and led Kadena's overall team title victory over Nile C. Kinnick and Yokota of Japan.

Kadena also won the team relay and boys and girls team titles and placed a record eight runners on the All-Far East team — every honor up for grabs in the cross country meet.

The foundation for the Panthers' dual 2004 championships might have been laid in 2001, when runners Turner and Devon Copeland and tennis players Lori



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Sophomore Amy Lopes, above, teamed with senior Lori Kanikkeberg to win the girls doubles silver medal, then beat Kanikkeberg in the singles championship of last week's Far East High School Tennis Tournament.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena senior Lori Kanikkeberg, above, finished second in girls singles and doubles.

Kanikkeberg and Travis Dang entered Kadena as freshmen.

The tennis team then was "struggling," coach Hoa Nguyen said. "We had to rebuild from scratch."

Nguyen was able to hang on to Dang and Kanikkeberg their entire high school years — unusual for a community in which transfers are the norm. Along the way, Soroka, Lopes and others joined the mix.

"Having the same players for three or four years makes a lot of difference," Nguyen said.

More players also came out for the team — 33 this year com-

pared with 10 in 2001. Attracting players, he said, "is easier when you have a winning program."

Lopes and Kanikkeberg put the Panthers over the top.

"They sparked them, gave them more confidence than some other teams had," said Bruce Barker, whose Osan American team placed fourth. "On any given day, anybody can be beaten. But they were the dominant players in the tournament."

That Far East would be limited only to DODDS-Pacific teams this year just gave the Panthers' teams an even bigger confidence boost, Kanikkeberg said.

"I knew Amy and I worked on our game a lot and we were pretty confident," she said. "But when we found out about the international schools [not participating], we felt we could do really well."

The cross-country team has consistently won island championships but has come up short in Far East meets. A sign that could change this year was when 56 runners came out for the team — more than Kadena's two football teams combined.

"Teams that win, you get more runners to come out, and they push each other to do better," coach Tom McKinney said.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Junior Niki Kauzlarich, left, and senior Jon Turner, right, won the individual titles and led a Kadena sweep in the Far East cross country meet.

This week's schedule

Guam

Boys volleyball

Friday, Nov. 19

Guam High vs. Simon Sanchez at Yigo Gym, 5:30 p.m.; John F. Kennedy at George Washington, 5:30 p.m.; Southern at St. Paul Christian, 5:30 p.m.; Notre Dame at St. John's, 5:30 p.m.; Harvest Christian Academy at Father Dumas Memorial, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20

St. Paul Christian at John F. Kennedy, 5:30 p.m.; Simon Sanchez at St. John's, 5:30 p.m.; Guam High at George Washington, 5:30 p.m.; Southern at Notre Dame, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 23

St. Paul Christian vs. Harvest Christian Academy at Guam Sports Complex, 5:30 p.m.; St. John's at John F. Kennedy, 5:30 p.m.; Father Dumas Memorial at Guam High, 5:30 p.m.; Notre Dame at George Washington, 5:30 p.m.

Girls soccer

Thursday, Nov. 18

Southern vs. Notre Dame at Talofoto Field, 4:30 p.m.; John F. Kennedy at St. John's, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20

Academy of Our Lady at John F. Kennedy, 5 a.m.; Guam International Christian Academy vs. Guam High at Pohnpei Point, 8 a.m.; Simon Sanchez at St. John's, 9 a.m.; Harvest Christian Academy vs. Notre Dame at Talofoto Field, 11 a.m.; George Washington at Southern, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Notre Dame at St. Paul Christian, 4:30 p.m.; Harvest Christian Academy at George Washington, 4:30 p.m.; Guam International Christian Academy at Southern, 4:30 p.m.; Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy, 4:30 p.m.; Academy of Our Lady vs. Guam High at Pohnpei Point, 4:30 p.m.

Tennis

Friday, Nov. 19

George Washington at Southern, 3 p.m.; John F. Kennedy vs. Simon Sanchez at Hagatna, 4 p.m.; Guam High vs. Father Dumas Memorial/Academy of Our Lady at Hagatna, 6 p.m.; Harvest Christian Academy vs. St. John's at Tamuning, 6 p.m.

Athlete of the quarter

nominations

Stars and Stripes' Athlete of the Quarter will be coming to the Home Team page on Dec. 2. Please e-mail Dave Ornaauer at ornauer@starsandstripes.com with your nominations by Sunday, Nov. 25.

Chris Roach

Football
Yokota, Japan

Last week: Rushed 17 times for 203 yards and a touchdown and returned a punt 70 yards for another TD as the Panthers captured their fifth straight Rising Sun Bowl, routing the Kadena Banders 50-6 on Saturday night at Yokota Air Base's Bunk Field.

The senior tailback/safety/kick returner



finished the season with 1,603 yards and 22 touchdowns on 183 carries. Roach amassed 1,978 all-purpose yards and 26 touchdowns.

"He's a mature young man," coach Tim Pujol said of Roach, a 4.0 student and basketball and track athlete.

"He takes sports seriously and he's humble. He gives credit to other people. He's a gracious young man."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Amy Lopes

Tennis
Kadena, Okinawa

Last week: Won the girls singles title and shared the girls doubles silver medal with teammate Lori Kanikkeberg, helping pace the Panthers to the Far East Tournament team title. First by a DODDS-Pacific team in 15 years.

Lopes went unbeaten in singles during



her sophomore season (her only loss was in the Far East girls doubles championship) to become the first DODDS-Pacific player to win a Far East singles title since 1995.

Kadena went unbeaten in all five of its league meets this season with the Kubasaki Dragons and won every one in Lopes' tenure on Okinawa. She transfers to Arizona in December.

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Cavaliers above .500 for 1st time since 2001

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Cavaliers have proved that they're getting better. Look, it's right there in the standings.

For the first time since 2001 more than three years, they have more wins than losses.

Take another bow, LeBron James.

Last season's rookie of the year and the current player of the week had 33 points and 12 rebounds, helping the Cavaliers

NBA roundup
The Cavs moved above .500 for the first time since 2001 with their fourth straight victory, 99-88 over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 16 points in the fourth quarter — and Drew Gooden had 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers (4-3), who hadn't had a winning record since Jan. 12, 2001, when they were 17-16.

James was a high school NBA rookie back then. He's an NBA sophomore now, getting better by the day.

"LeBron had a pretty nice game, huh?" Warriors coach Mike Montgomery said. "He made some tough, tough shots. We can't do much about those turnarounders because he's just bigger."

With his third 30-plus point performance this season, James temporarily moved past Kobe Bryant for the league's scoring lead.

More importantly, he's playing for a winner.

"That doesn't mean a thing," James said of the Cavaliers' winning mark. "It's the early season, so we can't be worrying about that. We've got to win a lot more."

But after losing 52, 53, 65 and



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, shoots over Golden State Warriors' Jason Richardson during the third quarter of Cleveland's 99-88 victory Monday in Cleveland. James scored 33 points.

47 games the past four seasons with little more to look forward to than the NBA lottery, being above .500 was well celebrating.

"It means a whole lot to me," Cavs coach Paul Silas said.

"We're one game over and we just have to keep this thing rolling."

Ilgauskas scored his 10 points during Cleveland's decisive fourth-quarter spurt that helped the Cavaliers open a six-point lead and put the Warriors away.

Jason Richardson matched a season high with 27 points and Derek Fisher had 15 for Golden State, which dropped to 1-7.

James, whose shooting touch has improved, drained three three-pointers and scored 21 points in the first half — 17 on outside jumpers.

Rockets 80, Nets 69: At East Rutherford, N.J., Maurice Taylor shook off early foul trouble by

making three straight shots to snap Houston out of an early foul funk.

The Rockets missed their first eight shots and fell behind 11-0 before Taylor, whose third foul came just 3:34 into the first quarter, scored Houston's first six points.

Jim Jackson scored the first quarter with a three-pointer for a 20-17 edge, giving Houston the lead for good. The Rockets eventually went ahead by as many as 22 to snap a two-game skid.

Tracy McGrady returned from a two-game absence due to a strained right hip and scored 14 points, including a jumper in the lane on which he was fouled with 4:30 left to hold off a mild rally.

Jim Jackson scored a season-high 18 and Taylor added 12. Richard Jefferson led New Jersey with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Boston	2	600	—
Philadelphia	4	571	—
Toronto	4	571	—
New York	2	480	—
New Jersey	5	286	2

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Miami	5	274	—
Orlando	3	571	—
Washington	4	429	2
Charlotte	1	200	3
Atlanta	5	167	3½

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Indiana	2	714	—
Milwaukee	2	600	1
Cleveland	4	571	1½
Detroit	3	500	1½
Chicago	0	400	3½

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Dallas	1	875	—
San Antonio	5	833	1
Phoenix	4	500	2
Memphis	2	286	4½
New Orleans	2	600	4½

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Seattle	1	857	—
Utah	1	833	½
Minnesota	3	600	2
Portland	3	500	2½
Denver	5	286	4

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Phoenix	4	567	—
L.A. Clippers	4	571	½
L.A. Lakers	4	500	1
Sacramento	3	429	1½
Golden State	7	125	4

Monday's games

Tuesday's games			
	W	L	Pct GB
Utah at Charlotte			
Seattle at Philadelphia			
Houston at Atlanta			
Miami at Minnesota			
New York at San Antonio			
Phoenix at Dallas			
Chicago at Sacramento			
Toronto at L.A. Clippers			

Wednesday's games

Thursday's games			
	W	L	Pct GB
Cleveland at Charlotte			
San Antonio at Philadelphia			
New York at Houston			

Monday

Cavaliers 99, Warriors 88

GOLDEN STATE — Durnley 31-0 11, Murphy 21-11, Robinson 10-5-13, Jackson 1-0-0, Richardson 12-5-23, Fisher 12-10-15, Najera 3-7-1, Davis 0-0-0, Cheaney 1-0-0, Foyle 0-0-4, Sessay 0-1-1. Totals 99-88 14-30.

Monday

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CLEVELAND — James 12-22 6-13, Gooden 3-8 0-0, Ilgauskas 8-6 6-16, McInnis 13-13 2-8, Newble 3-6 2-5, Harris 0-0-0, Taylor 2-0-0, Williams 13-17 1-5, Brown 0-0-0, Pavlovic 2-3 0-0. Totals 99-88 14-30.

Golden State

24 24 24 24 24

Cleveland

24 24 24 24 24

Three-Point Goals—Golden State 4-14 (Fisher 2-4, Durnley 1-2, Richardson 1-4, Sessay 1-1, Robinson 0-1), Cleveland 6-11 (James 3-5, McInnis 2-3, Pavlovic 1-1, Harris 0-1, Brown 0-1). Fouled out—Fisher, Robinson—Golden State 47 (Murphy 11, Cleveland 51 (Gooden 13). Assists—Golden State 25 (Durnley, Fisher 7, Cleveland 21 (Snow 7). Total fouls—Golden State 23, Cleveland 18.

A-2052 (20,562).

Rockets 80, Nets 69

HOUSTON — Jackson 6-10 3-18, Taylor 5-13 2-12, Yao 3-11 0-1, McGrady 15-23 4-14, Ward 2-3 0-5, Mutombo 2-2 2-2, Lue 3-6 1-2, Howard 4-7 1-2, Bowen 1-3-0-2. Totals 80-69 17-11 (6-80).

New Jersey

6-10 3-18

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Carter told to stow iPod during warmups

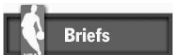
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vince Carter has been told to stow his favorite tunes on his own time.

The Toronto Raptors star was informed by the NBA that he was not allowed to listen to music on his iPod during the 20-minute warmup period before each game. Carter recently started listening to the music on his headphones, a violation of the league's rules on proper attire.

"We informed them that he can no longer do that," NBA spokesman Brian McIntyre said Tuesday.

Carter has said he listens to the music in order to focus before a game.



Briefs

Needing frontcourt help, Bobcats activate Sampson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In desperate need of frontcourt help, the Charlotte Bobcats activated forward Jamal Sampson on Monday even though he isn't 100 percent healthy.

Sampson is close to being fully recovered from foot surgery he had in March, but the expansion team needs him now. Center Primo Brezecz has a sore shoulder and forward Eneke Okafor hurt his ankle, and both are worn out from playing three games last week.

Sampson could split playing time with Jahlil White. The two simply need to provide enough minutes to relieve Okafor and Brezecz.

Keith Bogans, acquired in a trade with Orlando before the season started, was also activated.

Nets' Mercer has knee surgery

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Nets guard Ron Mercer had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Monday and is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

The surgery, to remove loose particles, was performed by Dr. Michael Kelly in New York.

Mercer averaged 9.3 points in three games as the starting shooting guard.

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Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, left, shakes hands with Nebraska coach Bill Callahan following their game in Norman, Okla., Saturday. Oklahoma won 30-3, and sparked controversy by keeping its starters in the game and deciding not to kick a field goal on fourth down in the final minute. "In the heat of the game, I got caught unfortunately between sportsmanship and BCS points and in my mind probably chose the wrong one because I do believe in sportsmanship," Stoops said.

Stoops: Oklahoma No. 2 because of schedule strength

BY JEFF LATZKE
The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Even Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops gets influenced by the BCS standings.

Stoops spent Monday crediting the Sooners' No. 2 spot in the new Bowl Championship Series standings to strength of schedule and regretting the perception that Oklahoma tried to run up the score against Nebraska in an effort to gain a few precious votes.

The Sooners maintained the second spot in the rankings behind top-rated Southern California. But No. 3 Auburn cut the Sooners' lead in half, from 0.567 points last week to .0271 this week.

The top two teams in the final BCS standings will play in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4 for the national championship.

The race became tighter after Oklahoma beat Nebraska 30-3 and Auburn defeated Georgia 24-6, and voters in The Associated Press' poll moved Auburn into a tie with the Sooners at No. 2. Still, the computer rankings kept Oklahoma the top team in the nation, even ahead of BCS No. 1 Southern California.

The BCS became an issue on Saturday when the Sooners kept their starters in the game and decided not to kick a field goal on fourth down in the final minute, apparently looking for more points.

In retrospect, Stoops said he probably should have acted differently.

"In the heat of the game, I got caught unfortunately between

sportsmanship and BCS points and in my mind probably chose the wrong one because I do believe in sportsmanship," Stoops said.

On Monday, Stoops pointed to the Sooners' schedule as the reason they came on top of the computer rankings.

"I guess our schedule has been strong and that's helping us," he said.

Oklahoma's schedule includes victories against Bowling Green, currently ranked 25th, as well as Oregon of the Pac-10, Auburn's nonconference schedule included Louisiana-Monroe, Louisiana Tech and Division I-AA The Citadel.

Oklahoma running back Kejuan Jones said the Sooners are in a quandary.

When Oklahoma was blowing teams out last season, experts deemed the Big 12 weak. Now, that the Sooners are winning by a smaller margin, they're not the conference, are regarded as weaker.

"They're not going to ever be satisfied by the way we win," Jones said.

Some Sooners players have said they didn't fully understand how the BCS worked, but just hoped that if they finished the season undefeated they'd get a shot at the national championship.

The Trojans, Sooners and Tigers are all 10-0. Each has two games left and one loss by any of them would help resolve what could be another BCS problem.

"I think as a team we're just fed up with the BCS stuff," Jones said. "We just want to go out and play as hard as we can and get the victories as best as we can."

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Brunell out, Ramsey in for Redskins

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Patrick Ramsey is the new starting quarterback for the Washington Redskins, a move coach Joe Gibbs hopes will end the team's worst scoring slump in seven decades.

"We're going to make him the starter," Gibbs said Monday. "We have to sink or swim with the way I feel about things. ... We're going to go with Patrick and hopefully he's going to play great for us, and we're all going to support him."

Gibbs benched Mark Brunell in the second quarter of Sunday's 17-10 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals, but the coach waited until Monday to announce that Ramsey will start Sunday's game at Philadelphia. "It'll be a tough assignment for him," Gibbs said. "It's probably the biggest underdog we've ever been going to Philly."

Brunell was 1-for-8 for 6 yards when he was benched with the Redskins trailing 17-0. He ranks last in the league in completion percentage (49.8), yards per attempt (5.04) and overall rating (63.9), and the Redskins haven't scored more than 18 points in a game all season.

Not since the Redskins played their home games in Boston, during the Dark Ages of scoring in the 1930s, has the team gone 10 games without scoring 20 points. The drought began with the season-ending 31-7 loss to Philadelphia last year and has continued through the first nine games of this season, bridging the coaching regimes of Steve Spurrier and Gibbs, who built reputations with high-scoring offenses.

Ramsey had 16 starts over two seasons under Spurrier, but his starting role was put in jeopardy when Gibbs traded for Brunell and signed the veteran to a seven-year, \$43 million contract with an \$8.6 million signing bonus.

Mularkey sticking with Bledsoe as Bills' starter
ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Mike Mularkey has a message to those clamoring for rookie quarterback J.P. Losman to replace Drew Bledsoe as Buffalo's starter. Not yet.

Mularkey on Monday insisted that Losman still needs plenty of work, considering the first-round draft pick missed almost two months recovering from a broken leg. The coach added that Bledsoe gives the Bills' the best chance to win.

After showing he can be efficient in a scaled-down passing attack, leading Buffalo (3-6) to wins in three of its previous four games, Bledsoe unraveled in a 29-6 loss at New England. He went eight of 19 for 76 yards, threw three interceptions and finished with a career-low quarterback rating of 14.3.

In his NFL debut, Losman wasn't any better. He entered with 4:40 remaining and in five plays, including a running play, Losman completed one pass, was sacked once, lost a fumble and was intercepted.



Patrick Ramsey (2 TDs, 5 INTs, 49 percent completion rate) will take over an offense that averages 13.9 points a game, which ranks 31st in the NFL.

Harrington's grip on Lions' starting job slipping
ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Joey Harrington is the starting quarterback of the Detroit Lions. After Monday, though, that position doesn't seem too secure. Lions coach Steve Mariucci gave his third-year quarterback a lukewarm endorsement one day after Harrington went 11-for-33 in a 23-17 overtime loss in Jacksonville.

"Right now, we're headed that way this week, ... we haven't really discussed making a change," he said when asked if Harrington would start Sunday in Minnesota. "We expect a certain level of performance and competence at every position, and that is constantly being evaluated."

Bengals say a Redskins split on one of their players
CINCINNATI — Coach Marvin Lewis said one of his Cincinnati Bengals was split on during a 17-10 victory in Washington, and he hopes the NFL does something about it.

Receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh confronted Redskins safety Sean Taylor at the end of the game Sunday in Washington, and he hopes the NFL does something about it.

Receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh confronted Redskins safety Sean Taylor at the end of the game Sunday in Washington, and he hopes the NFL does something about it.

"I had nothing to do with physical contact," Houshmandzadeh said. "He's a punk."

Lewis said Monday that one of his players — he wouldn't confirm it was Houshmandzadeh — got spit on. The receiver wasn't available for comment.

"We had a player spit on yesterday, and that's not right," Lewis said. "It's something that's been escalating from certain players. Hopefully the league will do something to cut it out."

Joe Gibbs, in his news conference Monday, was asked about Lewis' comments.

"I wasn't aware of that until you just mentioned it," Gibbs said.

Taylor refused to comment. He hasn't spoken to the media since he was arrested and charged with drunken driving on Oct. 28.

Porter, Green, Smith fined \$10,000 each for fight before Steelers-Browns game
NEW YORK — Linebacker Joey Porter of Pittsburgh and running back William Green of Cleveland were fined \$10,000 each by the NFL on Tuesday for their fight before Sunday's game in Cleveland.

The Browns' Terrell Smith was fined the same amount for getting involved in the altercation.

Porter, and Green were both ejected after the fight, which occurred less than an hour before Pittsburgh's 24-10 victory.

49ers' Erickson says Rattay 'will be our QB'

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Whether the tendons in Tim Rattay's forearm are torn, strained or just plain tired, it didn't explain his mental mistakes in the San Francisco 49ers' latest loss.

Rattay's ninth career start probably was his worst. He threw four interceptions and committed a key fumble, helping the Carolina Panthers recover from a 17-point deficit in their 37-27 victory.

But Rattay will be the starter for San Francisco (1-8) for the rest of the season — and next season too, according to coach Dennis Erickson, who gave a strong vote of confidence to his beleaguered quarterback after the Niners' second-half collapse in their fourth straight defeat.

When asked if the 49ers might want to play third-stringer Cody Pickett before deciding whether to use their presumably high draft pick on a quarterback in April, Erickson said: "There would be no reason for it that I could see. Tim Rattay is our quarterback and will be our quarterback next year."

Though his numbers are unimpressive, Rattay had been one of the 49ers' better players until Sunday, when he didn't exactly live up to his reputation as a smart quarterback. Rattay spent the night berating himself for his turnovers, which were turned into 17 points by the Panthers.

He misread simple coverages and got fooled into poor throws. He didn't show calm under constant pressure by the Panthers, who blitzed on 26 of the Niners' 33 plays in the second half.

And he didn't hold on to the ball when Will Witherspoon sacked him in San Francisco territory with six minutes to play. Mike Rucker recovered the fumble, which set up Carolina's go-ahead field goal.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by teams' prognoses, injury status and a few other tidbits.
Colts: OG Tui Tui (ankle sprain) likely to miss 3 weeks.
Eagles: RB/RS Reno Mahr (ankle sprain) out for Sunday.
Ravens: CB Chris McMillan (shoulder) likely to miss 3 weeks.
Seahawks: QB Matt Hasselbeck (knee bruise) status unclear.
Titans: DT Albert Haynesworth (elbow) out for Sunday.

NFL Briefs

"There's no excuse," Rattay said. "There's things that I can't do. I'm going to learn from it."

Erickson's confidence in Rattay also is helped by the inconsistent play of his backup, Ken Dorsey. While Rattay sat out three games this season with injuries, Dorsey struggled to a 53.9 quarterback rating, throwing four interceptions and no touchdowns passes.

Chiefs RB Holmes likely out

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Priest Holmes will likely miss Monday night's game against the New England Patriots with sprained knee ligaments, the same injury that kept him out of Kansas City's loss to New Orleans on Sunday.

"I would say he's out," Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said Monday. "I think he's made a little progress, but he's got a long ways to go. I don't see him being any different than it was last week."

Holmes, who leads the NFL in scoring with 90 points and ranks third in the AFC in rushing with 892 yards, injured his right knee against Tampa Bay on Nov. 7. While he sat out the loss at New Orleans, his replacement, Derrick Blue, ran for 186 yards.

Vermeil said he does not expect Holmes will need surgery.

Tomlinson feeling better

SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson can't wait to regain his shiftness and elusiveness.

"I think it'll be all at once," the San Diego Chargers' star running back said Monday.

Whether it happens Sunday at Oakland remains to be seen. The Chargers had last weekend off, giving Tomlinson a chance to rest his strained groin, which has hampered him for five straight games.

"I think it helped some," Tomlinson said. "I'm not going to say it helped just tremendously. It's just not enough time yet."

He sat out Monday, when coach Marty Schottenheimer held a rare Monday practice in place. At the most, Tomlinson has practiced just one day a week for the past several weeks.

"He said he felt pretty good," Schottenheimer said. "Of the guys who have been less than 100 percent, he's probably the one that is closest to 100 percent."

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Stars: McNabb, Eagles simply overrun Cowboys

STARS, FROM BACK PAGE

Lito Sheppard capped the scoring with a 101-yard interception return.

Dallas has lost five of six games, the last three losses by at least 20 points each. The Cowboys have lost eight of nine to Philadelphia by an average of 24 points.

"We couldn't slow them down, simple as that," Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said. "They were too much for us."

Unlike the 26-3 loss at Cincinnati the previous week, when Parcells called the Cowboys "stupid," Dallas was simply outplayed this time. But there were still several boneheaded mistakes — such as flags on all three extra points, a fumbled punt and a muffed kickoff that was recovered.

Dallas gave up its most points ever at home, and the most anywhere since losing 50-24 at Cincinnati in December 1985.

Philadelphia scored on four straight possessions in the second quarter, the first team to ever score four touchdowns in a quarter against Dallas.

The Eagles made it five straight possessions with a TD when Owens caught a 16-yarder over two defenders in the third quarter to make it 42-21 and give him his NFL-best 12th TD.

"It takes a couple plays for us to get a little momentum," McNabb said. "Once things get going, we feel confident that every play that we call is going to be effective and possibly get in the end zone."

McNabb had the most incredible play, on third and 10 from the Philadelphia 25 in the second quarter.

McNabb spun away from one would-be tackler and sprinted to his right, only to find another defender. So he went back to the left, chased by two more players, and finally heaved the ball. Replays showed he held the ball for 14 seconds before the 60-yard pass to Freddie Mitchell.

"It felt like a video game out there," McNabb said.

Parcells grimaced through it all, knowing there was little he could do about yet another lopsided loss. The Cowboys' season is a bust, with the only curiosity left being when he'll turn the offense over to rookie quarterback Drew Henderson.

"We just got to get better," Parcells said. "I'm not going to get into the state of the union right now."

Two days after turning 41, Vinny Testaverde hit 21 of 30 passes for 254 yards with two TDs to tight end Jason Witten, who had nine catches for 133 yards. Eddie George added a 15-yard TD run.

Monday Eagles 49, Cowboys 21

Philadelphia 7 21 7-49
Dallas 59 21 7-49 (0-1)

PBI—Owens 59 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 6:10.

Second Quarter

PBI—Levens 4 run (Akers kick), 14:53.

Dal—Witten 29 pass from Testaverde (Cundiff kick), 12:15.

PBI—Owens 27 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 10:22.

PBI—Pinkston 59 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 8:02.

Dal—Witten 24 pass from Testaverde (Cundiff kick), 3:23.

PBI—Westbrook 1 run (Akers kick), 28:17.

Third Quarter

Dal—George 15 run (Cundiff kick), 11:15.

PBI—Owens 16 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 6:04.

Fourth Quarter

PBI—Sheppard 101 interception return (Akers kick), 4:19.

A-64, 190.

Phi

First downs 48 317

Total Net Yards 331 449

Rushes-yards 35 246

Passing 289 203

Turnovers 2 1

Penalties 11 10

Interceptions 1 0

Red-zone 15-20 13-9

Sacked-Yards Lost 6-12 1-8

Fumbles-Lost 0 3

Time of Possession 30:50 29:50

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Philadelphia: Levens 12-73, West-

brook 4-22, Mitchell 1-60, Pinkston 1-50,

Levens 1-3, Anderson 6-28, Levens 2-14,

Testaverde 2-1, Johnson 1-5, Morgan 1-1,

1-minus 1.

Passing—Philadelphia: McNabb 15-28-0,

345, Blake 0-0-0, Dallas: Testaverde 21-30-

0.

Receiving—Philadelphia: Owens 6-134,

Witten 4-62, Mitchell 1-60, Pinkston 1-50,

Levens 1-13, Clemons 1-12, Perry 1-15, Bar-

nes 1-10, Johnson 1-5, Morgan 1-1, Bar-

nes 1-10.

HO USA/EPA/AY3F

CHAMP-EMPORE

Campbell Barracks

Misled field goals—None.

NFL scoreboards

American Conference

East	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	0	.889	217	152
N.Y. Jets	6	0	.667	202	158
Buffalo	3	0	.333	143	166
Akron	1	1	.111	133	186
South					
Indianapolis	3	0	.667	208	220
Jacksonville	6	0	.667	153	163
Houston	4	0	.444	185	223
Tennessee	3	0	.333	103	197
North					
Pittsburgh	8	1	.889	221	147
Baltimore	6	0	.667	174	138
Cincinnati	4	0	.444	109	179
Cleveland	3	0	.333	170	186
West					
Denver	6	0	.667	199	154
San Diego	6	0	.667	192	163
Chicago	3	0	.333	257	208
Oakland	3	0	.333	105	247

National Conference

East	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	1	.889	278	152
San Francisco	6	0	.667	188	154
Dallas	3	0	.333	162	182
Washington	3	0	.333	125	150
South					
Atlanta	7	2	.778	194	144
New Orleans	4	0	.444	188	154
Tampa Bay	3	0	.333	157	179
Carolina	2	0	.222	141	112
North					
Green Bay	4	0	.556	240	147
Minnesota	5	0	.556	242	227
Chicago	4	0	.444	152	159
Detroit	4	0	.444	164	194
West					
St. Louis	5	4	.556	203	173
Seattle	5	4	.556	206	168
Arizona	4	0	.444	167	179
San Francisco	1	8	.111	172	281

Sunday's games

Chicago 19, Tennessee 17	Indianapolis 49, Houston 14
Baltimore 19, N.Y. Jets 17	St. Louis 25, Seattle 12
Atlanta 24, Tampa Bay 14	San Francisco 22, Detroit 17
New Orleans 27, Kansas City 10	Pittsburgh 24, Cleveland 10
Cincinnati 17, Washington 10	Green Bay 24, Minnesota 31
Arizona 17, San Francisco 27	Carolina 37, San Francisco 27
New England 25, Buffalo 6	Open: Miami, Denver, Oakland, San Diego
Philadelphia 49, Dallas 21	
Sunday's games	Sunday's games
Dallas at Baltimore	St. Louis at Buffalo
Indianapolis at Chicago	Denver at New Orleans
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	Akron at Cincinnati
Arizona at Carolina	Tennessee at Jacksonville
Detroit at Minnesota	Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Miami at Seattle	San Francisco at Tampa Bay
San Diego at Oakland	Green Bay at Atlanta
Washington at Philadelphia	Green Bay at Houston

Monday, Nov. 22

New England at Kansas City	Thursday, Nov. 25
Indianapolis at Detroit	Chicago at Dallas
Sunday, Nov. 28	Sunday, Nov. 28
Cleveland at Cincinnati	Baltimore at New England
Tennessee at Houston	San Diego at Kansas City
Washington at Pittsburgh	Tampa Bay at Carolina
Jacksonville at Minnesota	Green Bay at Oakland
New Orleans at Atlanta	San Francisco at New York Giants
San Francisco at Miami	San Francisco at Seattle
Oakland at Denver	St. Louis at Green Bay

Lossing lead to coach Davis

BY TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

BERIEA, Ohio — With his job security the talk of the town, Butch Davis looked like a beaten man as he discussed yet another excruciating loss.

Nearly four seasons of injuries, frustration, bitter defeats and mostly sub-par football appear to have taken their toll on Cleveland's coach.

Building the Browns into Super Bowl champions has been much tougher than he imagined.

"Losing is a painful, painful experience, and we're frustrated," Davis said Monday while discussing the Browns' 24-10 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers. "We're searching for answers on how to turn this thing around. ... Losing [stinks]. Let's be real."

"If you're a competitor and you're a coach and you're a player, it's miserable. And the only cure for this misery is winning."

The Browns (3-6) are running out of time to salvage their season. And Davis may be a few losses from losing his job. On Monday, he addressed mounting speculation that this may be his final season in Cleveland.

Davis, who is 24-34 since taking over the Browns in 2001 and 1-8 against the rival Steelers, is under contract until 2007. But if the Browns don't improve quickly, owner Randy Lerner could decide to make a coaching change.

Davis claims he has both Lerner's support and sympathy.

"We speak after every game, and I do believe that Randy clearly understands the challenges that we've had as an organization over the last two years," Davis said. "There has been an awful lot of very, very difficult things that have to overcome. I think he is clearly in the loop and knows exactly what all those issues are. He knows where we are with the team from the talent and the coaching and the preparation. I think he's very supportive."

The Browns have lost three in a row and four of five, dropping

into last place in the AFC North, one game behind the Cincinnati Bengals — the NFL's standard bearers for utility.

But beyond the Browns' offensive ineptitude and 8-17 record since making the playoffs in 2002, there are other disturbing signs that Davis isn't getting the job done.

The comments made by defensive tackle Gerard Warren that he was going to go after Pittsburgh rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's head were embarrassing and fired up the Steelers.

There was also the silly pre-game trash talking that led to Browns running back William Green being ejected for fighting with Steelers linebacker Joey Porter.

Davis was troubled by both episodes, saying he didn't condone the behavior in either case while acknowledging that it was a reflection on him.

"Ultimately, everything that happens on that football field is a reflection on me," he said. "That's the ultimate responsibility as the head coach. You take it all."

And this year, taking it all has included quarterback Jeff Garcia's almost weekly criticism that the Browns coaching staff isn't utilizing his skills properly.

After Sunday's game, Garcia said the Browns were predictable, undisciplined and unimaginative.

"You name it, we do it — unfortunately the wrong way," Garcia said.

Davis dismissed much of Garcia's post-Pittsburgh rant as frustration that everyone in the Browns' locker room is feeling.

"We've got to give the kid an opportunity to be successful," he said. "We've got to keep the wolves off of him."

Davis may have his own wolves to worry about.

Unless the Browns can string some wins together, Davis could be going back to coach in college or rebuild another NFL franchise.



Top Scores for Week 10

204	rennisson	Alpha Co 1-133rd INF
196	jchamp	31 MXG WS
194	Buckeye Packer	USNDC Okinawa
194	Mickifiki	Camp Cooke
190	Joey188	Ramstein Air Base
190	AFERG 30	423RD
188	sparjoseph2000	2-146 FA
186	Smolkey Johnson	HO USA/EPA/AY3F
186	DolFan	CHAMP-EMPORE
186	IndyCop	Campbell Barracks

See websites for official game rules.



Best Overall Scores

1570	giants#1	hnc2/37 ar
1556	STEEFROGWOOD	MAG-12
1540	Allison	18 CES
1532	Jaguar One	DODDS
1530	Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
1522	arcbj	European Stars & Stripes
1516	Joe Corleone	Misawa
1512	Chickysnow	726 AMS
1510	SPIELMEISTER 04D	Hohenfels
1508	NEOBIT	USFJ

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

PGA tour pioneer Sifford joins golf greats

First black tour member inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — As the first black PGA Tour member, Charlie Sifford knew he had to keep his cool if he wanted to pave the way for others.

As the first black inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, Sifford lost his composure quickly.

He held up the crystal trophy for everyone to see, waving it from side to side like a wand and smiling broadly. Moments later he broke down, bowing his head and softly tapping the podium with his fist, choking back tears.

"You're going to have to forgive me, because this is touching," Sifford said. "A little of caddy boy from Charlotte, North Carolina, getting inducted into this great hall. How about it?"

More than 40 years after he helped put an end to the whites-only membership rules on

the PGA Tour, Sifford took his place among golf's greatest figures in a historic induction ceremony Monday night in front of 3,000 people who laughed, cried and celebrated his amazing journey.

"Tonight we honor a man not only for his accomplishments on the course, but the course he took in life," Gary Player said in his introduction of the 82-year-old Sifford. "Persistence is an ingredient that is essential to success, and Charlie had that persistence."

Joining Sifford in a most diverse class of inductees was Canadian amateur Marlene Stewart Street, Japanese star Isao Aoki, and former U.S. Open champion Tom Kite, whose endless work ethic brought him 19 victories.

Sifford paid his dues like no other.

He risked ridicule and threats

being brought through the Caucasian-only clause on the PGA, finally rescinded in 1961 after Sifford became the first black on tour.

Someone left feces in the cup at the Phoenix Open. Fans kicked his ball in the rough. Telephone calls in the middle of the night warned him not to show up at the golf course. Sifford played on, winning twice on the PGA Tour and later capturing the 1975 Senior PGA Championship.

"This is a great day, not only for Charlie Sifford but all of golf," Tiger Woods said in videotaped remarks.

The induction brought membership in the hall to 104, and a plea from Sifford that he not be the last black.

He paid tribute to Teddy Rhodes and Bill Spiller, who paved the way for him in the blacks-only United Golf Association, to Lee Elder, who became the first black to play in the Masters in 1975; and to Calvin Peete,

Jim Dent and Jim Thorpe, blacks who later succeeded on the PGA Tour.

Charlie's induction reminds us how far we have come as a country and a game," PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem said. "But it also reminds us how far we have to go."

Kite was among the steady performers, finishing in the top 20 on the PGA Tour money list 15 consecutive years and twice winning the money title. His most productive year was 1989, when he won the Players Championship, the Tour Championship and was voted PGA Tour player of the year.

Aoki won 73 times around the world and is the only Japanese player to win six tours. He is best known for holing out for eagle on the 18th hole in the 1983 Hawaiian Open to become the first Japanese player to win on the PGA Tour.



Charlie Sifford won twice on the PGA Tour and the 1975 Senior PGA Championship.

"I think he's the Arnold Palmer of Japanese golf," said Greg Norman, who introduced him. "To travel from your home shores is not an easy task."

Street became the first Canadian inducted into the Hall of Fame. She had an amazing amateur career in which she won six national titles and last year captured the U.S. Senior Amateur at 69.

Big East will be one 16-team basketball division in '05-'06

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Big East will be one 16-team division in 2005-06 and only 12 schools will participate in the postseason basketball tournament.

The league announced the new structure Monday and it takes effect following the addition in 2005 of five schools from Conference USA and Boston College's departure for the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Miami and Virginia Tech left for the ACC this academic year, leaving the Big East with 12 schools.

Louisville, Cincinnati, DePaul, Marquette and South Florida make the move from Conference USA to make it 16 schools.

The schools will still play a 16-game regular-season schedule with 13 opponents and three repeat matchups. The league office will decide the repeat matchups and it will be based on television, rivalries and geography.

Only 12 schools will advance to the annual postseason tournament at Madison Square Garden, the same as the current setup.

The bottom line is we want to help the best teams prepare for success in the NCAA tournament," commissioner Mike Trang-hese said.

If we expanded our tournament field to 16 teams, there would be no byes — or rewards — for what's going to be an exciting, but grueling regular season."

N.Y. commission suspends Holyfield after latest loss

NEW YORK — Evander Holyfield was suspended indefinitely by New York boxing officials in the wake of his Saturday night to journeyman Larry Donald.

The suspension means the

Sports briefs

42-year-old former four-time heavyweight champion will have to seek medical clearance if he wants to fight again.

After losing a lopsided decision to Donald, Holyfield said he still plans to fight. Holyfield won only one round on one scorecard and two on the other two in the 12-round fight.

Holyfield has won only two of his last nine fights. He told the New York State Athletic Commission was involved in a "conspiracy" to get him out of boxing and that he would contest the ban.

Sports court sets new dates for Montgomery, Gaines hearings

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Hearings in the doping cases of American sprinters Tim Montgomery and Chryste Gaines have been delayed until the middle of next year, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said Tuesday.

The sports world's highest court said Montgomery's hearing will start June 6 in San Francisco and Gaines' case will begin July 10 in New York. The hearings had been set to begin in early November, but all parties were postponed at the request of all parties.

Montgomery, world record holder in the 100 meters, and Gaines have been charged by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and face lifetime bans if found guilty.

Hewitt rallies past Moya in Masters Cup

HOUSTON — Lleyton Hewitt came back from an overnight rain delay to finally beat Carlos

Moya 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 in a first-round match in the ATP Masters Cup Championships on Tuesday.

Two other singles matches were scheduled, with more rain in the forecast. Marat Safin played Guillermo Coria and second-seeded Andy Roddick was to meet Tim Henman in the night's featured match.

The victory allowed Hewitt to take a 6-5 series lead against Moya, although the Aussie has won the last four meetings, including in the finals at Sydney in January.

Three finalists announced for best college receiver award

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Two Big Ten receivers, Michigan's Braylon Edwards and Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield, and Ball State's Dante Ridgeway are finalists for the Biletnikoff Award, given to college football's best receiver.

Edwards, a senior, has 76 catches for 1,049 yards; Stubblefield, also a senior, has caught 68 passes for 876 yards and 12 touchdowns; and Ridgeway, a junior, has 95 catches for 1,184 yards and seven touchdowns.

The winner will be announced in December.

Mauresmo withdraws from Fed Cup

PARIS — Amelie Mauresmo withdrew from France's Fed Cup team Tuesday, saying she needs time off before preparing for next year's Australian Open.

Defending Fed Cup champion France faces Spain in the semifinals later this month.

Marion Bartoli was named as a replacement and joined the team of two-time Grand Slam winner Mary Pierce, Nathalie Dechy, Tatiana Golovin and Emilie Loit.



Russia's Maria Sharapova, above, won the WTA Championships final Monday with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Serena Williams.

Sharapova beats injured Serena Williams in WTA

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Serena Williams' injury-induced weakened serves drove Maria Sharapova to distraction. Two games from ending the season in defeat, the Russian teenager focused on holding her own serve.

Sharapova overcame the early third-set mental lapse and beat Williams for the WTA Championships title 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 Monday night in a rematch of their Wimbledon final.

The 17-year-old Russian will rise to a career-high fourth when the year-end WTA rankings are released Tuesday.

"I don't think I could've asked for anything better this year," Sharapova said. "It's been an extraordinary year for me. I know that I'm not showing a lot of emotion, but I'm sort of just speechless."

Sharapova stunned Williams for the Wimbledon title in July, propelling the blond teenager to international stardom. She finished the year with five titles.

Williams trailed 5-2 in the second set when she called for a trainer after straining her abdominal muscle. The injury greatly affected Williams' serve — usually a 120-mph weapon but reduced to the 65-mph puff of a weekend hacker.

"After she got the medical treatment, I could tell that she had problems serving, but on the groundstrokes she was just teeing off on everything," Sharapova said. "Beside her serve, she didn't look injured once she was playing, so she was actually being really tough. I couldn't capitalize on the weak serves that she hit."

Williams left the court for five minutes and returned to have her serve broken in losing the set 6-2.

She rolled to a 4-0 lead in the third, including winning the first 11 points of the set and twice breaking a flustered Sharapova.

After the third game, the trainer reappeared to wind a large wrap around Williams' stomach. She slipped an ice bag under her shirt on later changeovers.

Angels' Guerrero selected

Outfielder wins award over Sheffield, Ramirez in first season in AL

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vladimir Guerrero won the American League MVP award Tuesday, just the fifth time a player switched leagues and earned the honor in his first season with his new team.

The Anaheim Angels right fielder received 21 of 28 first-place votes and 354 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

New York Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield finished second with five first-place votes and 254 points. Boston players split the remaining two first-place votes, with left fielder Manny Ramirez finishing third with 238 points, and designated hitter David Ortiz winding up fourth with 174 points.

Guerrero was prepared for a close vote.

"It was in my way expecting it to be the way it came out," he said through a translator during a conference call from the presidential palace in the Dominican Republic.

Guerrero, 28, signed a \$70 million, five-year contract with the Angels last January after eight



Anaheim Angels' Vladimir Guerrero become the fifth player to switch leagues and win an MVP award in his first season with his new team.

seasons with the Montreal Expos. He hit .337 with 39 homers and 126 RBIs as the Angels' leadoff man in the AL West, and led the league with 124 runs and 366 total bases.

He batted .371 in September with 10 homers and 23 RBIs, and went 14-for-30 (.467) with six homers and 11 RBIs in the last six games of the season, helping the Angels finish one game ahead of Oakland.

Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said Guerrero was "at times carrying our team single-handedly."

"When he came to our team,

our expectations were obviously very, very high, and he met every one of them," Scioscia said.

"Not many players can do what he did last week."

The only other non-rookies who became MVPs in their first AL seasons were Baltimore's Frank Robinson (1966), Chicago's Dick Allen (1972) and Detroit's Mike Hernandez (1984). In the NL, Kirk Gibson accomplished the feat with Los Angeles in 1988.

Houston's Roger Clemens won the NL Cy Young Award last week following his first season in the league. Clemens won six Cy Youngs in the AL.

Guerrero became the second Angels player to win, joining Don Baylor (1979). He is the fourth Dominican to be MVP, following Toronto's George Bell (1987), the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa (1998) and Oakland's Miguel Tejada (2002). He became the ninth straight player from the AL West to win.

"I had got such a great temperament. For as talented as he is, he's probably the most unassuming superstar you'd ever be around," Scioscia said. "He's got probably the smallest ego of anybody that has accomplished what he has."

Guerrero was especially happy that three of the top four finishers in the vote were Dominican.

"It's our blood," he said. "We grow up with baseball."

Guerrero gets a \$500,000 bonus for winning the award and Ramirez \$100,000 for finishing third. Ortiz didn't get anything for finishing fourth — but would get \$400,000 for finishing second through fifth in his contract that starts next season.

Tejada, now with Baltimore, gets a \$300,000 bonus for finishing fifth, and Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez gets \$100,000 for winding up 10th.

Relocating

Expos sign 3B Castilla, SS Guzman

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Expos made their first big splash since the announcement they plan to move to Washington, agreeing Tuesday to a \$6.2 million, two-year contract with third baseman Vinny Castilla and a \$16.8 million, four-year deal with shortstop Cristian Guzman.

Castilla, 37, hit .271 with 35 homers and an NL-leading 131 RBIs last season for Colorado, the best season for the two-time All-Star since he was with the Rockies in 1990s. Castilla also has played for Atlanta, Houston and Tampa Bay, and has 303 career home runs.

Guzman, a 26-year-old switch-hitter, batted .274 last season with eight homers, 46 RBIs and 10 steals, and he led AL shortstops with a .983 fielding percentage.

Baseball owners announced the proposed move on Sept. 29 and are set to vote Thursday on the relocation of the Expos, a deal subject to the District of Columbia government enacting funding by Dec. 31 to build a ballpark.

Martinez meets Steinbrenner

NEW YORK — Pedro Martinez visited the enemy Tuesday, meeting with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner at New York's spring training complex in Tampa, Fla.

Taking part at the World Series champion Boston Red Sox, Steinbrenner talked at Legends Field with the free-agent right-hander.

Martinez was accompanied by agents Fernando Cuza and Pat Rooney.

"We had a good meeting," Steinbrenner said in a statement, without elaborating.

Cuza, Rooney and Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment.

Mets make Leiter a free agent

NEW YORK — Al Leiter became a free agent Monday when the New York Mets declined his \$10.2 million option and decided to pay a \$2.1 million buyout.

The left-hander went 10-8 with a 3.21 ERA in 30 starts last season. He began the year by pitching 15 1/3 scoreless innings, then was on the disabled list from May 11 to June 1 because of tendinitis in his left elbow.

A member of the Mets for the last seven seasons, the 39-year-old Leiter also has played for the New York Yankees, Toronto and Florida.

Phillies re-sign RPH Lidle to \$6.3M, young deal

PHILADELPHIA — Right-hander Cory Lidle returned to the Philadelphia Phillies, agreeing Tuesday to a \$6.3 million, two-year contract.

The 32-year-old Lidle was 5-2 with a 3.90 ERA in 10 starts with the Phillies after he was acquired from Cincinnati in August.

Bonds' season amazing for what didn't happen

Barry Bonds had every reason to drop off this year.

The steroid scandal hounded him. His father was gone. He got little help from batters behind him and saw too few pitches over the plate.

Then there was that little matter of his age, 40 years old, a milestone that often takes a toll on a hitter's reflexes, his legs and sometimes on the eyes.

Steve Wilstein



Yet here he is again winning the NL MVP in a walk — his fourth in a row and No. 7 overall, both records — with two years left on his contract with the San Francisco Giants. And here he is still yearning to win a World Series ring, even as he closes in on the career home run marks of Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron.

Bonds says he can't figure out why he seems to be getting better with age. He'd like a little credit for that, rather than questions about chemical enhancements.

In truth, he's been blessed with talent, taken care of his body in a way that he says his late alcoholic father, Bobby, and other great players did not, and he's pushed himself to work harder every season in pursuit of that elusive ring. More than that, he was born into baseball and still loves the game.

"There's a light switch that turns on on me as soon as that season starts," he said Monday from his home in Beverly Hills, Calif. "I could go through spring training in half-way mode. But as soon as they say baseball starts, I change. Everything inside of me. I don't know what it is."

What keeps him going through the grind of the season, he says, is the chase for a championship.

"That one thing not being in my life is something that drives me more than anything else does," he said. "To watch other people win drives me to want to be in that circle. Every year I try to get better."

Bonds' monster season was astonishing for what he did as much as for what he might have done if he hadn't been walked so ridiculously often.

Consider a season like this: 62 home runs, 141 runs batted in, 180 runs, 188 hits, .362 batting average.

Those are the gaudy numbers Bonds would have been projected to produce, according to the statistics whizzes at the Elias Sports Bureau, if he had walked the same number of times St. Louis' Albert Pujols did (84), instead of a record 232 times.

The hard part about all those walks — whether intentional or on pitches just outside the strike zone — is how much they wear on his concentration and his legs.

"I've tried to explain to players that it's a lot harder to walk than it is to jog back to the dugout and take a rest," he said. "I'm on my feet all day. A lot of teams wear me down. I know they do it intentionally. Sometimes I come through."

"I'm not able to do it as often as I used to. But that has to do with age, too. I'm getting older. My attention span probably isn't going to be the same."

As it was, Bonds hit 45 homers to push his career total to 703 (11 shy of Ruth, 52 behind Aaron), 101 RBIs, 129 runs and 135 hits, along with that .362 average. Throw in a slugging percentage of .812 and an on-base percentage of .609 (topping the 582 mark he set two years ago) and he made the issue of age almost as irrelevant as the suspicions about steroids.

Anyone can speculate on how much help Bonds has gotten in recent years if he used the steroids that his personal trainer, Greg Anderson, is charged with distributing from

the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative to top athletes.

Yet in the absence of positive tests on Bonds and the lack of convictions in the ongoing investigation, the only conclusive evidence is the fact that Bonds is doing things at bat that simply can't be attributed to any known drug.

There isn't a steroid in the world that can account for his patience at the plate as he waits for hittable pitches, or his uncanny solid contact with the ball when he does swing. His body armor — him hugging the plate and his short, compact swing is the deadliest in the game.

Collectively, according to Elias, players batted behind him this season produced a .264 batting average, 19 homers, 103 RBIs — not bad, but hardly the support that Pujols, Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds gave each other in the St. Louis lineup.

Those three Cardinals finished third, fourth and fifth in the NL MVP voting behind No. 2 Adrian Beltré of Los Angeles.

Bonds says he wants a big hitter or two behind him for protection, especially young players he can teach. But he's not pushing the Giants, who may not be able to afford the free agents out there.

"We'd all love to click our heels and get whoever we need," Giants general manager Brian Sabean said. "Barry knows that we're running a business and it's not that easy. You're also kind of married to what you do, including the size of his contract on the roster."

San Francisco's top priority this offseason, Sabean said, is boosting the bullpen with a closer. That means Bonds probably won't be joining Beltré or Carlos Beltrán batting behind him next season.

Bonds might not like it but that won't stop the light switch from going on when he hears, "Steve Wilstein."

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SPORTS

Angels' Guerrero beats
Sheffield, Ramirez to win
AL MVP award, Page 39



Eagles' Owens stars



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Dallas Cowboys safety Roy Williams, left, walks away from Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens, center, as Owens stands on a small star logo painted on a helmet in the end zone after a 27-yard touchdown catch by Owens in the first half Monday night. The Eagles won 49-21.

WR scores three TDs in rout of Cowboys

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Terrell Owens must be running out of material for his touchdown celebrations. Two weeks after mocking Ray Lewis, he reverted to one of his old moves.

Back on the field where he began turning scores into performance opportunities, Owens once again did his thing on the Dallas Cowboys' logo. Only this time, he used a star on a helmet in the end zone, not the large one at midfield.

Owens had plenty of chances to celebrate Monday night with three TD catches in the Eagles' 49-21 win over Dallas.

He pretended to ice skate into the end zone

after his 59-yard touchdown in the first quarter. He posed on the smaller star logo in the end zone after his 27-yarder in the second quarter and then slam-dunked the ball over the crossbar after his last score.

"I'm just going out here having fun," said Owens, who had six catches for 134 yards in his second three-TD game this season. "I can't do too much... I just have to keep it low key."

The latest celebrations were nothing like four years ago when Owens was with San Francisco and celebrated twice on the mid-field logo. Emmitt Smith mocked him after the first one, and safety George Teague flattened him on the next one.

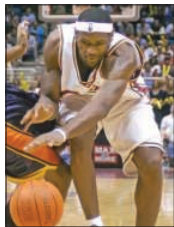
Philadelphia (8-1) rebounded from its only loss by scoring its most points in a regular-season game since 1981.

Donovan McNabb completed 15 of 28 passes for 345 yards and four touchdowns, the other a 59-yarder to Todd Pinkston. He also had an incredible scramble that led to a 60-yard completion and set up Brian Westbrook's 1-yard run just before halftime.

The Eagles had a 35-14 halftime lead, already with more points than they had scored in a game this season and matching the most ever allowed by Dallas (3-6) in a half.

"The guys took pride in themselves to come out here and rebound from the loss last week," Owens said. "We came in with a passion, the pride and the character of the guys on this team, and it showed today."

SEE STARS ON PAGE 37



James scores 33
to help Cavaliers
get above .500
for first time
in three years

Page 34



As losses, injuries
and frustration
grow in Cleveland,
Davis' job security
decreases

Page 37



Oklahoma points
to its schedule
in defending No. 2
BCS ranking

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Redskins switch QBs: Ramsey in for Brunell

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